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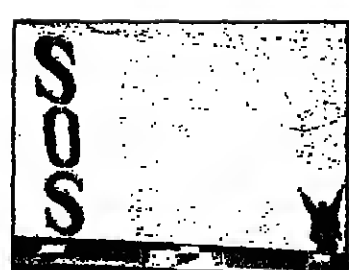
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PM: 1999 inflation target to be revised

By JESSICA STEINBERG

The official inflation target for 1999 will soon be raised from its recently set level of 4 percent to a range of 5%-6%, Prime Minister Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the annual meeting of the Association of Electronics Industries yesterday.

The Bank of Israel would not comment on the statement.

"We need to let the market know where we are going," said Netanyahu, who is acting finance minister.

He added that such a change should not be too extreme, but that a 1-2 percentage point change "is not that significant."

Netanyahu added that in recent conversations with him, both US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair said that beyond a certain price level, reducing an inflation rate that already is at single-digit levels becomes imprudent.

Full report, Page 10

Deadly gene detected

By JUDY SEGEL

A team at Jerusalem's Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem have identified a hidden genetic mutation that can cause sudden death, especially in young people.

The mutation lurks undetected and affects the heart muscle. About a fifth of those carrying the gene will eventually suffer from serious heart problems. It is believed to have been the cause of the deaths of young athletes who died on the sports field.

It was the first mutation found in Israel linked to a disease called familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and was found in a Jewish family in the North.

People who have a history of sudden cardiac death in their family should first consult a cardiologist, who will decide whether to refer them for genetic testing. Two years ago, the Israel Cardiology Society launched a program, headed by Prof. Eran Leshem, director of Hadassah's center for prevention and treatment of atherosclerosis, and Prof. Andre Keren of Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital, to register affected families, perform a genetic diagnosis, and ensure follow-up to prevent further deaths.

Leshem said the discovery is crucial in deciding how to treat carriers of the gene and choosing between keeping them under regular medical supervision, implanting a NIS 20,000 defibrillator, and/or restricting physical activity.

However, he added, making such decisions is very complicated and involves ethical questions as well. "Should such a person be drafted into the army to be barred from sports, for example?" he said.

The condition was diagnosed by Prof. Bassel Lewis and Dr. Moshe Fliegelman of Carmel Hospital, and the mutation was identified by Leshem and Dr. Yardiella Melner, of the human genetics department in the Ein Kerem hospital.

Clinton impeachment trial starts

Opening arguments next Thursday

By HILLEL KUTLER

WASHINGTON — Nearly one full year after Monica Lewinsky became a household name, the Senate impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton formally began yesterday, the second such trial in American history and the first in 131 years.

The House managers of the prosecution presented a formal impeachment order in the Senate chamber, and later in the day Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist arrived to be sworn in to preside over the trial, and he administered the oath to senators who will all serve as jurors.

The Senate was to send a summons requesting the president's response to the articles of impeachment to the White House last night, Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles said.

White House: Trial could be manifestly unfair, Page 6

said. The opening arguments are to be made next Thursday, said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. Republicans believe the trial could be concluded by February 5, Nickles said.

But the morning session opened with no agreement yet on the rules for proceeding. All 100 members were due to caucus later in the day in the Capitol's Old Senate Chamber — an ornate room which served as the body's home until 1859 — to discuss such matters as when the prosecution and White House lawyers would present their opening statements.

But at the appointed hour, the bipartisan caucus was canceled due to Democratic opposition to a proposed procedure to calling witnesses. A compromise offered by Nickles would have had the Senate wait until after the prosecution and defense presented their cases before voting on the inclusion of a particular witness. Democratic Minority Leader Tom Daschle objected to the proposal on the grounds that witnesses should not appear at all.

Republican senators pronounced themselves "very disappointed" at the cancellation, but expressed hope that the meeting could be rescheduled.

The Republican offer would allow witnesses to appear on the basis of a simple majority vote. Democrats, however, prefer either a two-thirds vote or an outright ban on witnesses, due to their concern over lengthening the trial and the reshaping of sexual details.

At 10 a.m., the Senate President Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, called the session to order. Sergeant-at-Arms James W. Ziegler led House Judiciary Committee chairman Henry Hyde and 12 other Republican committee members down the center aisle "to conduct impeachment proceedings against William Jefferson Clinton, president of the United States."

Standing in the Senate well and facing the legislators, Hyde announced that Clinton is impeached for "high crimes and misdemeanors." He recited the two articles of impeachment that the House approved, charging that Clinton, in Paula Jones' civil suit against him, "willfully corrupted and manipulated the judicial process of the US" by providing perjurious, false, and misleading testimony and "prevented, obstructed, and impeded the pursuit of justice."

"In all this, William Jefferson Clinton has undermined the integrity of the office and brought disrepute to the presidency... and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law [and] warrants impeachment and trial and removal from office."

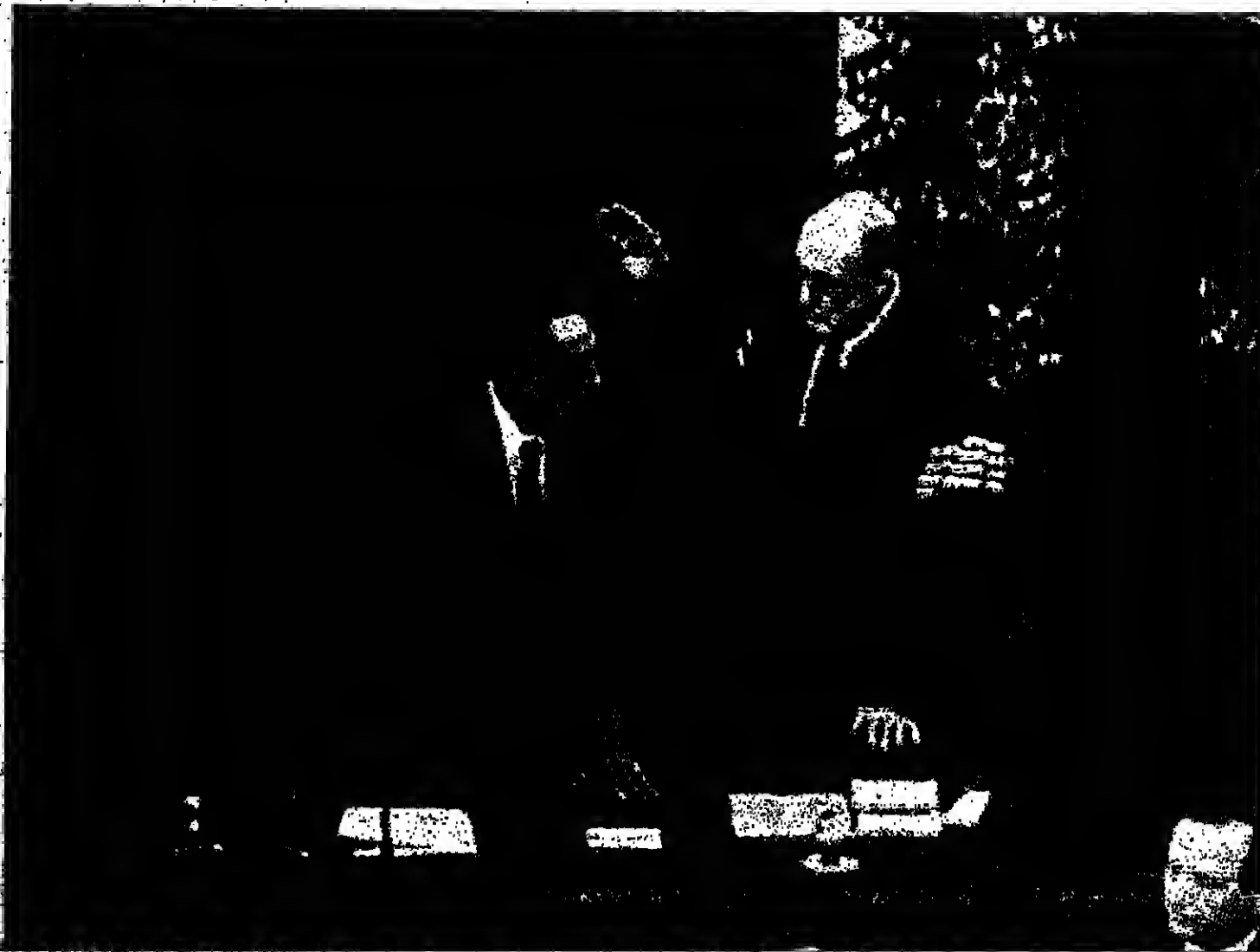
Just 15 minutes after it began, the session recessed for three hours. After the break, an escort committee of three Republicans and three Democrats preceded Rehnquist through the central doors and into the chamber. The black-robed Rehnquist took his oath — "Do you solemnly swear that in all things pertaining to the trial of William Jefferson Clinton, president of the United States, now pending, you will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and the laws" — and then administered the same pledge to the senators en masse. Each senator was then called up by name and made to sign a list acknowledging that he or she had sworn in.

But even as visitors and reporters left the upstairs galleries, the senators clustered near Lott's desk to discuss where to go from here.

The small group of senators — including Democrat Joseph Lieberman and Republican Slade Gorton, both of whom at first proposed that a trial be halted after two days for a vote on whether to proceed, only to have the motion defeated — mustered until more than half the senators evicted Lott.

Lott later told reporters his goal is to achieve a "bipartisan decision" on the crucial issue of how to conduct the trial. Conceding that little is in place yet, Lott said that "after the prosecution and defense present opening statements next week, slowly we'll evolve into a process everyone is comfortable with."

"What we're talking about is for the opening statements to be made at that point on what the Senate's will be for having witnesses called. You can't preordain it."



Senate President Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond (left), swears in US Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist yesterday. Rehnquist will preside at the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. (AP)

Shahak lifts Labor's spirits

ANALYSIS

By SARAH BOWEN

Amnon Lipkin-Shahak met the grassroots yesterday. The retired general recklessly chose to kick off his campaign by attempting to overwhelm the Likud stronghold of Tel Aviv's Hatikva market.

Buoyed by flattering polls, he was lulled into complacency and believed he could triumph over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his "home" territory.

Shahak was taking a leaf out of the late Yitzhak Rabin's book. In 1992, Rabin went to nearby Kfar Shalem, and was cheered by Likud diehards. This was seen by many Laborites then as a sign of things to come and Rabin indeed emerged

the winner that year.

There were no such auspicious omens for Shahak, however. Only a day earlier he called the Likud prime minister a "danger to Israel" and with that ruled out any friendly welcome.

Many around Shahak already rue the abrasive tone with which he entered the race. All of Shahak's yuppy slogans about harmony and tolerance could not undo his inflammatory opening chord.

His attempts yesterday to be folksy and address his audience in simple, even ungrammatical Hebrew did not go over well. He was out of his element.

But that was not the only indication of trouble. Despite all the public speculation, there is no queue of high-ranking defectors from other parties knocking on his door.

The fact that he and Dan Meridor were each planning to start collecting the 50,000 signatures needed to

actually get on the prime ministerial ballot is perhaps the most significant indication of their failure so far to attract MKs from other parties.

To qualify for the race, a candidate needs to be nominated by at least 50,000 signatories to his petition or be sponsored by at least 10 MKs.

Until recently, the conventional wisdom in the political arena was that Shahak and Meridor, separately or together, would have no trouble recruiting 10 MKs. Ultimately this may happen, if they go hand in hand, but so far there is no great exodus from the existing parties into any new framework.

To be fair, there are still formally no new enemies to join. All we have are the two declared candidates for prime minister, which may in the fullness of time merge into a single candidacy. Two distinct campaign headquarters have been

set up and these embryos may eventually give rise to one or two centrist parties. However, disaffected MKs know where to locate either Meridor or Shahak. If they wished, they could promise to be counted upon in sponsoring either of them for the premiership.

The fact that both Meridor and Shahak were planning to launch their signature drives means that the MKs are not flocking in. Meridor had planned to begin circulating petitions this morning, and Shahak was to begin on Sunday.

Yesterday both agreed to wait, despite their disagreement on who will lead the new centrist configuration, so as not to squander their energies on two petitions and put off potential signatories. Only to have to regroup and start over again later in a new drive for whichever single candidate they might agree upon.

See SHAHAK, Page 6

Army base declares war on dogs

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

At the request of an IDF boot camp sergeant-major, rangers from the Nature Reserves Authority opened fire on stray dogs, killing two, capturing one alive, and wounding a large hound before the eyes of traumatized recruits who had befriended, fed, and named them.

One of the dogs, a large mixed-breed shepherd, was hit in the back but managed to flee howling into the dunes of Nitzanim. By morning the wounded dog had crawled back to the base which had become its home.

According to the army, the sergeant-major then telephoned the NRA rangers to come and finish the job. But soldiers who had witnessed the events quickly telephoned Let Animals Live for help. The association immediately rushed its only animal ambulance to the base, and arrived before the rangers and was able to rescue the dog.

"The dog is okay. It is with us," said Etti Altman, head of the association.

"We know that it is against regu-

lations to have stray dogs on army bases, but we have to find a more humane way of getting rid of them. It's inconceivable in this day and age to just shoot them down. The soldiers told us that they pumped about three or four bullets into each dog."

The IDF Spokesman confirmed the incident, but said that the dogs at the Nitzanim training base had become a nuisance and had even bitten three soldiers. The army said the dogs were "sick and aggressive."

"The dogs were hanging around the base and had even entered it this past week. Soldiers had complained that they were afraid of walking on the base," the army said.

The army said the rangers had come with a veterinarian and had tried "all sorts of ways" to lure the dogs from the base to no avail. They said that the pack of dogs even tried to attack the rangers.

"There was no alternative but for a member of the Nature Reserves Authority, who had a gun license, and under the supervision of the veterinarian, to shoot the street animals on the base," an IDF statement said, adding that the animals were shot with a .22 caliber weapon.

One dog suspected of having rabies was captured alive and taken to Beersheba for tests. The army said.

See DOGS, Page 6

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Beer Sheva	4:31 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Eilat	4:35 p.m.	5:38 p.m.



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NEWS

in brief

Mubarak, Assad to meet in Damascus

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is to fly to Damascus today for talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad touching on the stalled Middle East peace process and the Iraq crisis. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters the two would "discuss the current situation in the Arab world with the peace process at the forefront." He said the talks would cover the latest developments in the peace process in light of Israel's freezing of the Wye accord and with the increased violence in the occupied territories. *Reuters*

Court requests explanation from Mordechai

The High Court of Justice yesterday instructed Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to report within weeks why the graves of Guy Golan and Raz Tabi, two of the naval commandos killed in a botched raid in Lebanon in September 1997, have not been opened to perform DNA tests on their body parts which were buried in secret. The state was also asked for an explanation why a new state funeral has not taken place for them. *Itim*

Jerusalem man found shot in head

A body of a man aged about 18 was found yesterday night on Rehov Rabbi Akiva, in the center of Jerusalem. Police said the man had been shot in the head, and are investigating whether he committed suicide or was murdered. *Ami Klein*

Girl killed by falling gate

A five-year-old Tira girl was killed Wednesday night, when the iron gate on which she was swinging came loose and fell on her. The police are investigating the cause of the accident. *Itim*

Border policeman hit by stone

A border policeman was lightly injured when Palestinians threw stones during clashes with security forces at Shweikh, south of Tulkarem. The IDF Spokesman said troops dispersed the rioters with rubber bullets. *Margot Drukavitch*

Campaign slogans

The Likud's election slogans:

- "Barak flees the truth": "I don't express dovish positions because I want to win the elections." (Ehud Barak to Ma'ariv)
- "Barak runs from responsibility": "If I were born a Palestinian, I would have joined a terror group." (Ehud Barak to TV interviewer Gideon Levy)
- "We will not compromise on Jerusalem. The Likud, a strong leadership."
- "We will not compromise on Israel's security. The Likud, a strong leadership."

Labor's retaliatory slogans:

- "Netanyahu has no red lines."
- "Netanyahu: Too many lies, for too long."
- "Barak is for everyone: Netanyahu is for the extremists"

Sarah Honig

Winning numbers

In yesterday's Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 079883 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 699237 won the car. Tickets 247953, 396787, 825858, 862442, 084989, 044305, 655237 and 250115 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 40884, 06790, 61907, 32300, 45355, 69012, 32003, 93947, 11124, 92237, 37768, 95637, 55118, 30470, 61956, 99824, 26584, 40448 and 56267 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 249, 409, 768 and 030 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 50, 52, 88 and 66 won 30 NIS. Tickets ending in 83 and 63 won 20 NIS. Tickets ending in 1 and 7 won NIS 10.

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Elections '99

Barak election cry: Netanyahu is good for Yassin

Labor primaries to be held Feb. 15

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

The Labor Party central committee last night approved the party political bureau's recommendation to hold primaries for the party's Knesset candidates on February 15.

The final decision, however, is up in a special session of the party convention, which meets next week.

Earlier in the committee session, held at Beit Berl, near Kfar Sava, party leader Ehud Barak condemned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government.

"For Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, this government is good," Barak said, referring to the founder of Hamas, who was released from jail in October 1997 to appease Jordan after the Mossad's botched attempt to assassinate Khaled Mashaal in Amman.

"But I am going to disappoint

you, Sheikh Ahmed... the man who freed you is going back to the opposition.

"He's not going home because he freed you," Barak said, but because of all the social problems in Israel, from overcrowded hospitals to unemployment to the high cost of education.

As he spoke, members of Labor's youth branch loudly chanted that Barak will be the next prime minister.

Barak attacked Netanyahu on many of the issues on which the latter had campaigned on in the 1996 elections, saying that only a Labor government can bring peace, security, and national unity.

"This government is dividing Jerusalem every day," he said. "We will defend Jerusalem."

If he and Labor win the elections, he said, the government would have "a new set of priorities," providing peace and security, while reducing unemployment.



Ehud Barak at last night's Labor Party central committee meeting at Beit Berl.

(Dan Oestreicher/Israel Sun)

and resulting other social problems.

In the months before the election, Labor activists must do everything possible to explain to voters that the drop in tourism, rise in unemployment, and many of the other social problems are the fruit of the Netanyahu government's frustrating the peace process, MK Yossi Beilin told the packed hall.

When Beilin and a group of Labor MKs visited Jordan's King Hussein in the Mayo Clinic, Beilin said, Hussein asked: "Can we go back to the third of November [the day before prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995]?"

"We will go back to the third of November and remember Yitzhak Rabin and his way and make peace," Beilin declared.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres criticized Netanyahu for not dealing with the US properly and not showing enough respect for President Bill Clinton.

"After the IDF, relations with the US are the most important," Peres said.

Peres also said that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat told him yesterday that if talks on implementing the Wye Memorandum are resumed he would not make any unilateral declarations.

In response to Labor's charges, Likud spokesman Ronit Eckstein said: "The Likud strongly condemns Barak's statements at the Labor central committee. The Likud reminds Ehud Barak that under the government in which he was foreign minister, Hamas attacks reached an unprecedented level."

"It's clear that a weak government led by Barak would take us back to those days when the Hamas acted comfortably within the heart of Israel."

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

Likud campaign to focus on Barak, ignore Shahak

By SARAH HONIG

The Likud will try to run an issue-driven campaign, home in on Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak and studiously ignore all other prime ministerial hopefuls — especially Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

This emerged yesterday at a press conference given by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and former cabinet secretary Dan Naveh.

They unveiled the Likud's preliminary campaign strategy as a party, stressing that this is distinct from the personal campaign by the prime ministerial candidate.

Hanegbi stressed that "formally, the Likud must still pick its candidate in a primary contest on January 25 between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and MK Uzi Landau."

Although Netanyahu will probably rout his challenger, "the Likud right now has no elected candidate, which is why Netanyahu is not being mentioned by us at this stage. If he wins the primary, his name will come in at that point," Hanegbi explained.

The Likud, apparently, has picked Barak as most likely to succeed from among all of its prime ministerial opponents. Reporters yesterday were shown two slogans in which he is taken on.

Printed in red ink and bearing his photo, two stickers allude indirectly to the accusation that Barak fled the site of the 1992 Tze'elim-2 training accident. One sticker reads "Barak flees the truth," and it features a quote Barak gave Ma'ariv in which he says "I don't express dovish positions because I want to win the elections."

The other sticker, also in red, says "Barak runs from responsibility." This one features Barak's controversial statement: "If I were born a Palestinian, I would have joined a terror group."

To hammer the point home, Naveh took a leaf out of Barak's own book.

The Labor Party chairman had once made public the US phone numbers of Netanyahu's campaign adviser Arthur Finkelstein. Yesterday, Naveh advised Barak to



Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi unveils one of the Likud's anti-Ehud Barak campaign slogans at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. The placard reads: "Barak flees the truth." Behind the placard is former cabinet secretary Dan Naveh. (Dan Oestreicher/Israel Sun)

"phone Yasser. Surely you have this number. It's 07-2824670. This is how you reach Yasser Arafat's office."

"Tell him that he shouldn't get anxious, that if you win we will go back to concessions, to withdrawals, back to the Beilin-Abu Mazen plan, to all such plans that were in the works," Palestinian Authority officials reported that the phone in Arafat's bureau was jammed all afternoon, as dozens of Israeli tried the number Naveh had revealed.

Hanegbi insisted that "this is not a negative campaign. We will have to wrestle over the campaign

agenda. Labor is trying to make this a campaign of personal mudslinging. They will try to avoid the issues."

"We frankly do not want a campaign of slander, gossip-mongering and character assassination. Labor's soft underbelly is the issues."

"This is exactly what we plan to highlight. We will accentuate the gaping differences in defense and negotiating policies. We will force Barak to expose the truth about his positions, something he has not done in three years."

Some of what Hanegbi said barked back to the 1996 campaign.

Hanegbi asserted that "a government headed by Barak will lead to the division of Jerusalem."

Two other stickers put out by the Likud point to the same message. These are printed in blue and white.

One says "We will not compromise on Jerusalem. The Likud, a strong leadership."

The other says "We will not compromise on Israel's security. The Likud, a strong leadership."

Asked why he is making no mention of Shahak, Hanegbi replied that "this is strictly an issue-driven campaign and this makes Shahak irrelevant — at least

at this point. He has said nothing of substance, has presented no platform and has offered no proposals or solutions."

"All he wants is for people to smile, and for road accidents and violence against women to be eradicated. No one wants any different. This is all very nice but has little to do with the crucial, existential issues now besetting this nation."

In reaction to the slogans unveiled by the Likud, Labor put out two of its own retaliatory slogans: "Netanyahu has no red lines" and "Netanyahu — too many lies, for too long."

MK Oshaya contests Knesset pension boost

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) has appealed the Knesset House Committee's decision Wednesday to give MKs pensions as though they had served a full four-year term instead of the three years this government will have served. First-time MKs who fail to be reelected will receive pensions as if they had served the mandatory

3.5 years' required to be eligible for a pension.

"As the opposition's coordinator on the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, I find it difficult to look people in the eye in the places I visit under these circumstances," Oshaya said.

He rejected the suggestion that his appeal, which does not stand much chance of passing, was "populist." But, he added, "I pre-

fer that image to the image that we are only interested in reaching into the public's pockets for our own benefit."

The difference for most MKs will be about an additional NIS 500 a month, which Oshaya said is "not significant in terms of MKs' salaries, but is compared to people on minimum wages and the unemployed." The Knesset House Committee decision was passed Wednesday in the presence of just three MKs: committee chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas), Abdul Malik Dahamshe (Democratic Arab Party) and Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash).

The committee also passed a series of decisions allowing MKs to spend more money on their offices and on "relations with the public."

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The recent shootings in Jewish Hebron are a mere forerunner of what will happen tomorrow in Tel Aviv and elsewhere!

We will not be intimidated! Let us join together now and put an end to these ugly and unacceptable Arab tactics. Of course, we will demand better protection from our police and army. But, we wish also to declare that Israel can no longer accept Arab double talk and inaction. Arab terrorists are permitted by Arafat to operate freely from within Palestine Authority areas; neither Arafat, nor anyone else in the PA, has made any serious effort to root them out. Moreover, instead of ostracizing them, and condemning their murderous acts, they praise and esteem these terrorists as heroes, and laud them as examples of Arab self sacrifice.

Men, women and children will march together along the route of the latest attempt to murder Jewish women who worked in a Hebron nursery. We will walk from Kiryat Arba to the nearby Beit Hadassah in Hebron (with our Jewish army's protection). The walk takes about 15 minutes.

The date of the March is Monday, January 11, 1999, starting at 10 a.m. from the gate near the gas station in Kiryat Arba. We have chartered buses (round trip NIS 20) leaving from the Laurovine Hotel in Jerusalem at 8:45 a.m. We will return at approximately 1 p.m. Please make your reservations early for a seat on the bus.

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ELECTIONS NOTEBOOK

● **AHARON** Domb, director-general of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza has turned down Prime

Margot Dudkevitch and news agencies

ON THE RECORD

• *I'll support Ehud, obviously* – MK Shimon Peres, talking of his relations with Shahak and Barak.

Peres says Arafat could delay statehood

"That's my feeling too. If negotiations are renewed, there's no room for unilateral negotiations," said Peres.

(Reuters)

Milo described the meeting as "positive

Lahav MK Nissim Zivli also met with Shabak again yesterday and is reportedly seriously considering moving over to the new party.

Concerning Shannell's statements about Netanyahu being "in danger to the state" Fares would only say he would have chosen a different style.

Earlier in the day, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert told Israel Tel Aviv that Shalal had made a "bit of a mistake" in launching a personal attack on Netanyahu, as if "raised among the prime minister's supporters at almost automatic protective in-flight to defend the prime minister's honor." He criticized what he called the "raucous" style of speech prevalent in politics, but although he distanced himself from Shalal's comments on Netanyahu, Olmert also reserved a barb for the premier, saying that Netanyahu could have expected a response to his comments on Shalal; being a leftist, even before Shalal, officially launched his campaign.

No smiles at the Hatikva market for Shahak

By HEIDI L. GLEIT

If a bus is on a treacherous road in the mountains and the driver is driving dangerously, he explained, "the bus must pull over to the side and switch drivers."

One of many hecklers holds out a picture of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu while protesting Annon Lipkin-Shahak's presence at Tel Aviv's Hatikva neighborhood marker yesterday. (Ben-Gurion)

the neighborhood's main street, to the Hatikva Restaurant where he ate lunch, while they stood outside and shouted, "Shahak go home."



... ..

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Senior military source:

PA giving 'yellow light' for violence

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The Palestinian Authority's failure to clearly condemn terrorist attacks against Jewish residents of Hebron is seen by terrorists as a "yellow light" for more violence, a senior military source said yesterday.

The source also accused the Palestinian security forces in Hebron of refraining from preventing attacks on Israelis and of keeping the fire of discontent smoldering in the city.

The comments came after a Wednesday night meeting between OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, Haj Ismail Jaber, the commander of Palestinian forces in the West Bank, and Col. Jabril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security.

It was conveyed to the Palestinians that Israel was not satisfied with the lackadaisical attitude taken toward rioters and terrorists. There have been at least 13 shooting attacks in the past five weeks at the Jewish quarter in Hebron, including the one on Monday which wounded two Israeli women.

A curfew is being kept on Hebron in order to pressure the Palestinians to crack down on the perpetrators.

A senior military source said that the Palestinians see the past year as an interim year, leading up to the declaration of a state in May.

The source also believes that the violence is under the directives of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. He noted that the protests over the release of prisoners suddenly ended

as US President Bill Clinton arrived, and have not resumed.

Hamas and other terror groups in the West Bank, despite suffering from the loss of its master bomb makers and ring leaders, are still intact and quite capable of recruiting activists. Their intention is to carry out shooting attacks and kidnap an Israeli soldier, but there are no signs that they are planning suicide bombings in Israel.

Still, the PA has not made a serious crackdown on terrorists, preferring to maintain a "cat and mouse" relationship with Hamas.

On the other hand, Israel has investigated and questioned over 30 people responsible for rioting, most after the murder of Rabbi Shlomo Ra'anan in Tel Rumeida last summer. The Central Command has also issued restraining orders restricting the movement of 12 Israelis in Judea and Samaria.

Attacks, not political moves, are what makes the settlers lose their temper, said the source.

The situation in the volatile West Bank is so sensitive that even platoon commanders are lectured about the political ramifications of seemingly simple tactical responses. While the army has no intention of attacking a political scientist to its officers, IDF commanders are expected to think twice before reacting to incidents.

For this reason, the IDF has been deploying more and more regular "professional" soldiers into Judea and Samaria who will be permanently based there.



A Palestinian demonstrator confronts an IDF soldier dressed in riot gear during a march yesterday protesting the army's three-day curfew in Hebron. (AP)

Slain Palestinian man was an unlikely martyr

By BEN LYNNFIELD

Without fanfare or nationalist speeches, Bader Kawasme, 25, was buried yesterday, a day after he was slain in a tragic encounter with IDF soldiers imposing a curfew in Hebron.

Soldiers had shot him when he pointed what looked like a gun at them. The gun later turned out to be a toy.

Meanwhile, troops continued for the fourth day to clamp a curfew on the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron and a closure on the entire city, restricting the entry and exit of Palestinian vehicles.

About one hundred supporters of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement marched between the Palestinian and Israeli-controlled zones yesterday to protest the closure, carrying signs that read "No to Collective Punishment."

A few of them were pushed back by soldiers as they tried to enable Palestinian cars to pass a checkpoint.

The closure and curfew were imposed Monday following a drive-by shooting that wounded two women from Kiryat Arba.

Abdel-Khalik Natshe, a Hamas spokesman, yesterday termed that shooting "self-defense" against "occupation and aggression by the settlers."

Natshe added that the shooting of women settlers in Hebron is permissible according to Islam.

"If the woman is a fighter than she is considered as a man. And all the settlers in Hebron are fighters, be they men or women."

At the Kawasme home in the Palestinian-controlled part of the city, the mourning circle lacked the characteristic palmfruits of grief for one who had died resisting the

occupation. There were no posters of the deceased, no activists from Fatah or other factions, and no nationalists.

Mostly, there was just stunned silence and bitterness at the death of a person who by all indications had had nothing to do with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"He was never in jail, he was not politically active and I cannot say he was a martyr in resisting the occupation," said his father, Haider Kawasme.

Bader Kawasme had a severe speech impediment, relatives recalled. Three years ago he experienced psychiatric problems, they said, but had recovered and was able to assist his father, a car mechanic in the Israeli-controlled part of town, they said.

According to OC Hebron Col. Yigal Sharon, a soldier had approached Kawasme and asked him about something he was holding in a newspaper. Kawasme took out what appeared to be a pistol, Sharon said.

It later turned out to be a toy gun, Sharon said.

He ignored warning shots and calls to stop and pointed the toy gun at soldier, Sharon said. A soldier then fired five shots at Kawasme, with one striking him in the hand and one in the chest, he said.

Palestinian sources in Hebron, in a rare corroboration of the army's account, last night said that Kawasme was seen carrying the plastic pistol while being chased by troops in the casbah.

Kawasme's relatives, however, strongly believe he was shot without cause.

"Everything the Israelis are saying is an excuse. Who kills for a curfew, a man or an animal?" asked Riyadh Kawasme, a cousin.

Article by Shoval angers US officials

By DANNA HARMAN

US officials are extremely displeased with an article written by Ambassador Zalman Shoval in which he blames the Palestinian Authority for the stalemate in implementation of the Wye accord and accuses the PA of failing to live up to its Wye commitments.

In the article, which was printed in *The Washington Times* on Wednesday, Shoval wrote that Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization is instigating riots against Israeli troops and civilians in violation of the accord. He said the Palestinians "went back to their own devices" after first complying

with provisions of the accord negotiated at the Wye Plantation in Maryland in October.

Shoval further said that Palestinian leaders may have been led astray "by misplaced hubris" after President Bill Clinton's visit to Gaza last month, or by euphoria after more than 40 governments pledged billions of dollars of aid at a donors conference in Washington.

State Department spokesman James Rubin, in response, said that "we do not share Ambassador Shoval's assessment at all. The Palestinians have, in fact, worked hard to implement many of their commitments under the Wye

agreement, including annulling clauses in the Palestinian National Council charter and stepping up the fight against terror.

"There are some commitments that still have to be fulfilled, but in our view, overall, they are making progress here," said Rubin, adding that on the other hand Israel has not fulfilled its obligation to keep pulling back from territory on the West Bank.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, who is in New York to brief consular and embassy officials, said that in general "there is no crisis in Israeli-US relations. There are certain areas in which our relations are continuously

being deepened and broadened - areas which are not always discussed publicly."

He was referring to security cooperation between the countries.

"The US administration is aware," continued Sharon, "that Israel is the only democracy in this region - and that there is no other country which can replace Israel as America's democratic ally. The United States knows this well, and its support for Israel is deep and unwavering."

Sharon is to meet with US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross and with Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk today.

FM launches Israeli-Palestinian projects with UNESCO

By DANNA HARMAN

The Foreign Ministry, in conjunction with UNESCO, launched six joint Israeli-Palestinian projects yesterday. The projects, which range from medical research to cultural tourism, and from musical educa-

tion to inter-religious dialogue, are to be carried out jointly by the Hebrew University, the universities of Bethlehem, and Al-Quds, The Palestinian Center for Regional Studies, the Al-Liga Center, The Association for Interreligious Cooperation, and the Middle East

Children's Association.

Keeping the projects going will be no easy task, said UNESCO deputy director-general Daniel Janicot at the ceremony. "It is precisely because we are in difficult times that UNESCO has to promote this kind of cooperation. Times are difficult now, but we have to think of the future," he told Israel Radio.

Dr. Avia al-Qaq, deputy minister for International Planning and

Cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, noted that these were the first such official joint projects, and that, as such, were of great importance - especially at this time of diplomatic standstill.

"We stand firm against opposition, and in the end we have... reached an understanding within the Palestinian home, of the importance of this sort of dialogue," said al-Qaq.

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CHALLENGING THE NATION STATE: PERSPECTIVES OF CITIZENSHIP AND IDENTITY

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, January 10-12, 1999

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH, Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

17:00 - Opening Session

Greetings:

Prof. Avishay Braverman, President, BGU
Dr. Winfried Veit, Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Dr. Lev Grinberg, Director, Humphrey Institute, BGU

17:30-19:30 Session I: Identity and Citizenship in the Contemporary State

Chair: Prof. David Newman, Department of Politics & Government, BGU

The European Experience

Prof. Theodore Hanf

Arnold Bergstrasse Institute, Freiburg, Germany

Prof. Patrick Weil

Center for Political Studies, Paris, France

The Israeli Experience

Prof. Naomi Chazan

Member of Knesset

Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami

Member of Knesset

MONDAY, JANUARY 11TH, Conference Room B, Ben-Gurion University

9:00-11:00 Session II: The Post-Colonial State

Chair and Discussant: Prof. Dan Bar-On, Department of Behavioral Sciences, BGU

Prof. John Comaroff, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, USA

Dr. Lev Grinberg, Department of Behavioral Sciences, BGU

Dr. Lena Jayyusi, Institute of Modern Media, Al Quds University

11:30-13:30 Session III: Post-National Identities

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Becky Kook, Department of Politics and Government, BGU

Prof. Leonard Binder, Department of Political Science, UCLA, USA

Dr. Uri Ram, Department of Behavioral Sciences, BGU

Dr. Yossi Yona, Department of Education, BGU

15:00-17:00 Session IV: Territory and Identity

Chair and Discussant: Prof. Yehuda Gradus, Department of Geography, BGU

Prof. Peter Marcuse, Department of Urban Planning, Columbia University, USA

Prof. Anssi Paasi, Department of Geography, University of Oulu, Finland

Prof. David Newman, Department of Geography/Politics and Government, BGU

17:30-19:30 Session V: Reshaping the Nation State

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Ismail Abu-Saad, Department of Education, BGU

Prof. Richard Bellamy, Department of Politics, University of Reading, UK

Prof. Manoel Hassassian, Vice-President, Bethlehem University, Palestinian Authority

Prof. Oren Yiftachel, Department of Geography, BGU

20:00 Dinner to Mark the Opening of the Department of Politics & Government

Chair: Prof. Renee Poznanski, Department of Politics and Government, BGU

Greetings: Prof. Nahum Finger, Rector and Prof. Jimmy Weinblatt, Dean, BGU

Prof. Zeev Sternhell, Department of Political Science, Hebrew University

Nationalism: From Historicism and the Struggle Against The Enlightenment to Fascism

(by invitation only)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12TH, Conference Room B, Ben-Gurion University

9:00-11:00 Session VI: Religion & Identity in the Contemporary State

Chair and Discussant: Prof. Dan Tzafrir, Department of History, BGU

Dr. Michael Lerner, Tikun Magazine

Dr. Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, Department of History, BGU

Dr. Isaac (Yassir) Nervo, Department of Philosophy, BGU

11:30-13:30 Session VII: Gender, Citizenship and Identity

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Nitzan Berkowitz, Department of Behavioral Sciences, BGU

Prof. Valentine Moghadam, Department of Sociology, Illinois State University, USA

Dr. Sara Hellman, Department of Behavioral Sciences, BGU

Dr. Pina Motzafi-Haller, Department of Behavioral Sciences, BGU

15:00-17:00 Session VIII: Immigration and Citizenship

Chair and Discussant: Dr. Andre Levy, Department of Behavioral Sciences, BGU

Prof. Nira Yuval-Davis, Department of Sociology, Greenwich University, U.K.

Dr. Adriana Kemp, Department of Politics and Government, BGU

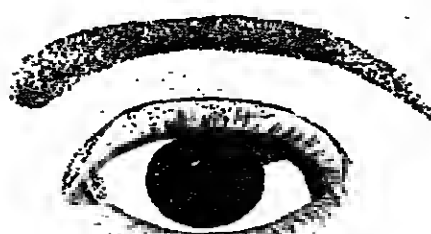
Dr. Charles Small, Department of Geography, BGU

17:30-19:30 Closing Session: Roundtable of Conference Participants

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SLA demolishes homes in zone

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Five bulldozers guarded by IDF and South Lebanon Army troops yesterday demolished more than a dozen houses in the village of Armon in south Lebanon believed to have been used by guerrillas to place bombs.

According to reports from Lebanon, some 30 IDF troops accompanied by several SLA fighters, entered the town before dawn with the bulldozers and started razing the houses.

"They conducted the bulldozing without prior warning. Olive trees were also razed," an unidentified witness told AP.

The houses were uninhabited, but one of

them belonged to Khalil Hamdan, commander of the Amal militia in south Lebanon, the reports said.

The site of the houses is a few hundred meters below the strategic Beaufort Castle, where the IDF has a large outpost. Hizbullah guerrillas set off a roadside bomb on the outskirts of Armon on Tuesday seriously wounding and IDF soldier. The village has been largely abandoned over the years.

The IDF acknowledged that the houses were destroyed. But the IDF Spokesman said that the demolition was done by an SLA unit and no Israeli troops were involved.

The army said that the houses were demolished because they had been used by terrorists to help them place bombs and booby traps against IDF and SLA soldiers.

In response, Hizbullah issued a statement warning that "the arm of the resistance will twist the necks of the criminal aggressors."

"The Israeli suspicions about the positions of these houses do not justify their demolition. All the homes in Lebanon can be destroyed if we agree to this logic," said Hizbullah official Mohamed Raad, adding that his organization will respond "with all the appropriate means when it deems fit."

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud condemned the demolitions as "barbaric."

according to a statement issued after a cabinet meeting in Beirut yesterday.

Prime Minister Salim Hoss called it "a flagrant violation" of the 1996 Grapes of Wrath understandings, the statement added.

Prime Minister Salim Hoss said the demolition of homes represented "a clear violation" of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

Meanwhile, the soldier injured in Tuesday's attack, Staff-Sgt. Arye Mostranski, improved dramatically and was released from the hospital yesterday. He told Army Radio that he plans to return to his unit in south Lebanon when he is able.

News agencies contributed to this report

NEWS

in brief

Egyptian court upholds life sentence for Israeli

An Egyptian appeals court yesterday upheld a sentence of life at hard labor for David Nanor, 42, an Israeli convicted of drug smuggling, a police official said. Nanor also faces a 100,000 pound (NIS 119,294) fine under the decision by the South Sinai appeals court, the official said.

Nanor was arrested in April 1994 in Sinai, when he was found to have drugs hidden in the tires of his car, according to police. It was not clear what type of drugs were involved. The police official said Nanor, a French-Israeli cameraman who works with an Israeli television station, was freed during the appeal but was ordered not to leave Egypt. AP

Holocaust survivors appeal compensation

Jewish organizations in Hungary will turn to the Constitutional Court to protest a parliament decision authorizing families of Holocaust victims 3 percent of the compensation awarded to victims of communism, a Jewish community official said yesterday.

In Hungary's 1999 budget, heirs of Hungarian Holocaust victims will receive 30,000 forints (\$1401 per victim). This is three percent of the one million forints heirs of Communism's victims received under an earlier compensation bill, according to the president of the Hungarian Jewish Communities, Peter Feldmajer. "With this move, the parliament has violated the idea of human equality."

About 170,000 applications for compensation have been filed, he said, including 100,000 by families of Holocaust victims. AP

Schroeder aide to discuss slave labor fund

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's chief of staff will visit the US and Israel to discuss government plans for a fund compensating former Nazi slave laborers, officials in Bonn said yesterday.

Bodo Hombach will make his visits at the end of the month, according to government spokeswoman Charima Reinhardt. She declined to offer further details.

Before taking office in October, Schroeder's government decided to establish a fund to settle back-wage claims and lawsuits from concentration camp inmates forced to work for German companies during World War II. But plans for the fund, which would involve German industry, banks and insurance firms, stalled in early December because companies could not agree on a common approach. AP

Authority petitions High Court

The Union of Local Authorities yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to force Interior Minister Eli Shaisa to cancel the new salary scale for local authority heads, which would increase the number of grades from four to 10.

ULA chairman Adi Eldar said the authority will not tolerate an unjustified decrease in the wages of the local authority heads, when the aim of such an action is to discriminate against authority heads who were elected in the last elections, and to damage the public standing of the local authorities. Jerusalem Post Staff

General blames Rabin for draft dodgers

OC Manpower Maj. Gen. Yehuda Segev yesterday reiterated on Army Radio's "What's Burning" his charge that Yitzhak Rabin gave legitimacy to draft dodgers when he hugged the singer Aviv Gefen, who avoided military service.

The late premier embraced Gefen at the peace rally at which he was assassinated in 1995. him

Justices tour Russian Compound lockup

By AMY KLEIN

Supreme Court Justices toured Jerusalem's Russian Compound police lockup yesterday, following a petition to close the prison because of its rundown conditions.

The petition was submitted over a year ago by Zvi Noah on behalf of the Lawyers' Association's Board of Directors.

Justices Yitzhak Zamir, Dorit Beinisch and Mishael Heshin advised Noah to update the petition, since some of the complaints in it have already been fixed. NIS 3 million worth of renovations have been implemented there over the past few years.

Director-General of the Internal Security Ministry Ami Plaut said that within five years they will close the lockup and open a new complex in Jerusalem's French Hill.

Noah has two weeks to submit his revised petition, after which the court will convene to discuss the issue.

The three justices were taken through the lockup by Plaut, Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, and head of the prison, Dep.-Cmdr. Shmuel Markowitz. Prisoners told the justices, the lockup was like a "five-star hotel," compared to the way it used to be.

Renovations included the installation of a new air-conditioning system, retilling floors and walls, and opening an extra outdoor yard.

Also, the number of prisoners per 4x4 meter cell has been reduced to 12, to fit the 12 bunks per cell - no prisoners can sleep on mattresses on the floor.

The prison's population has decreased from 300 to 106 in the past year.

But Noah says this is not enough, and that yesterday's tour was a whitewash. "Everything was sparkling clean, painted, but it was a show. If this once looked like a Turkish prison, now it looks like a Turkish nightclub."

Additional problems in the prison include the fact that 80 percent of the rooms lack windows, the bathrooms are holes in the floor with a tube above it for a shower, and the 4x4 rooms are way too small for 12 people, Noah said.

"Some of the conditions [mentioned in the petition] have been fixed," Noah said, "but it doesn't matter. This building is not fit to be a prison."

The complex was built in 1892, and was originally used as a hotel during the Ottoman Empire. After the establishment of the State of Israel, it was converted to a prison.

Noah said that other lockups around the country - such as Tel Aviv and Beersheba - suffer from the same poor conditions existing in the Russian Compound.

The Lawyer's Association sent a letter to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to request the same improvements "made to the Russian compound lockup would also be made around the country."



Holocaust survivor Hanoch Mertzbach chats with Swiss students (from left) Kaspar Sutter, Vinzenz Mathys, and Taschi Brauen at AMCHA's headquarters in Jerusalem yesterday.

Swiss students help Holocaust survivors

By NAOMI SIMONS

Five Swiss high-school students who raised more than 50,000 Swiss Francs (NIS 148,000) for Holocaust victims, are currently visiting to witness the fruits of their efforts.

For the past two years, the students, none of whom are Jewish, have devoted their spare time to the creation of the Solidarity Fund for Victims of the Holocaust, inspired by the revelation in 1996 of how Swiss banks continued to hold the money of Holocaust victims.

Kaspar Sutter, of Bern, now 19, was worried about the reluctance

with which his government was moving to solve the problem. "The politicians just talked and did not want to do anything," he said yesterday. "We wanted to show Switzerland and Europe that the young Swiss are concerned."

He gathered four like-minded school friends - Christina Frauchiger, Taschi Brauen, Vinzenz Mathys, and Massimiliano Desumma - and within a week they held a press conference for the new fund and were the subject of considerable media attention. The teenagers walked the streets of Bern, talking to people and handing out fliers, and eventually enlist-

ed students from more than 200 schools and universities in Switzerland to help them raise money.

The fund has now donated about 50,000 Swiss Francs to AMCHA, the National Israeli Center for Psychological Support of Survivors of the Holocaust. They found AMCHA through the Bern Jewish community and were impressed by its emphasis on human contact and personal caring.

"What they do here is really helping people," Sutter explained.

Yesterday, the five students visited AMCHA's Jerusalem headquarters and met some of beneficiaries

Local universities to be linked to NASA

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Science Ministry will see to it that Israeli universities are linked by a special computer connection to the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The line, which will cost the ministry \$30,000 and each university \$10,000 a year, is to provide reliable digital data about the Earth.

The information can be used for weather prediction and applying data on soil moisture and plant life to agriculture and meteorology. Science Minister Shalom Shalom, who yesterday visited the Inter-University Calculations Center at Tel Aviv University, said that hooking up to the NASA information is being delayed by the failure of one university - which he declined to name - to contribute its financial share to the project.

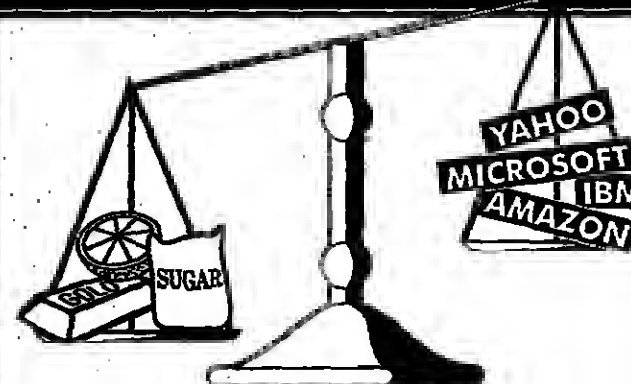
Israel will be the 10th country to be linked to the NASA line. Shalom said he is working for cooperation with NASA on the space station project, which will be launched in 2004.

During his visit, Shalom announced that the supercomputers at the TAU center will be upgraded with Origin 2000s with 112 processors; the system will be

capable of performing 56 million calculations per second. The supercomputer helps solve complicated problems in science and engineering, such as designing cars, predicting weather, developing economic models, and

researching cancer. The supercomputer upgrade program is getting NIS 17.7 million from the ministry, he said, adding that one supercomputer will be transferred to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba.

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US chief justice considered tough but fair

By JAMES VICINI

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — US Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who was sworn in yesterday to preside over President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, has made his mark at the Supreme Court as a tough, but fair conservative jurist. Rehnquist, a high court member for 27 years, will play a key role in the proceedings because the Constitution mandates that the chief justice — the country's top judicial officer — preside over any presidential impeachment trial.

Wearing his traditional black judicial robe with his trademark four gold stripes on each sleeve, the 74-year-old Rehnquist raised his right hand and took the oath from Senate President Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond. The stoop-shouldered Rehnquist, looking solemn, replied in a firm voice, "I do," when asked by Thurmond if he would use "impartial justice" in presiding over the Senate's only presidential impeachment trial of this century. During the 22-minute ceremony, Rehnquist, an amateur historian who wrote a book about two famous 19th century impeachment

cases, then swore in the senators. They took their oaths as jurors in the trial. After each of the senators wrote their names in an oath book, Rehnquist, who in the Supreme Court's marbled courtroom demands precision and punctuality, then recessed the impeachment trial until further notice. Rehnquist's 1992 book, *Grand Inquests*, focused on the Senate impeachment trials of Justice Samuel Chase in 1805 and President Andrew Johnson in 1868. The acquittals of Chase and Johnson, who was the only president besides Clinton to be impeached, may be one of the most significant and least appreciated constitutional landmarks in US law. Rehnquist wrote, "While he has refused to give any clues about his views of Clinton's case, Rehnquist warned in the book that the impeachment power must be used sparingly by Congress and should not be driven by politics. Rehnquist joined the nine-member Supreme Court on January 7, 1972, after being nominated by president Richard Nixon. A staunch conservative and Republican, he was elevated to

chief justice in 1986 by president Ronald Reagan. The Senate confirmed him as chief justice by a vote of 65 to 33, but only after three months of stormy controversy about his record. The number of dissenting votes was unusually high for a successful Supreme Court nominee. Rehnquist, whose distracted, absent-minded-professor manner masks one of the keenest legal minds in America, has been a no-nonsense taskmaster at the Supreme Court. He has corrected lawyers who do not get their facts right, cut off attorneys in mid-sentence when their time is up and sternly admonished spectators to keep quiet between arguments in different cases. Early in his career on the bench, some of Rehnquist's dissents were so stridently conservative that he was nicknamed "The Lone Ranger" because no other colleague would join him. As chief justice, however, he sometimes moderated his views in an apparent effort to forge a majority and demonstrate his leadership of the court. At the court, Rehnquist was well

White House: Trial could be 'manifestly unfair'

By RANDALL MICKELSEN

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The Senate impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton threatens to be "manifestly unfair" by opening without clear rules on how to proceed, the White House said yesterday. "We may be in a situation where we do move forward without clear rules of the road," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said. "I would suggest that that would be a situation, an environment, that is manifestly unfair to the president."

Lockhart spoke just minutes after US Chief Justice William Rehnquist was sworn in to preside over the trial. Although the trial has begun, the Senate has yet to make major decisions on how to proceed with the case. The White House's expression of concern was its most explicit challenge to the Senate's conduct of the trial. It marked a departure from the deference the White House has shown to the Senate because of its broad authority in determining how the trial is run. Lockhart said he believes the Senate is making a good faith effort to decide on the process. But he said, "Whether you're in a trial in the Senate or you're in traffic court, the idea that... the rules and procedures and evidence, witnesses, potential witnesses, are not clear to you at the beginning of the process is not fair," Lockhart said. Clinton's defense team was

SHAHAK

Continued from Page 1

Their hope is that an eventual Meridor-Shahak combination could attract the sufficient number of MKs from other parties to sign for them, thus obviating the need to take their case to the streets. Indeed, as things look now, only a dramatic resolution of their standoff, accompanied by a stirring show of goodwill and camaraderie, can give them the lift they sorely lack. Reports from both Labor and the Likud are that potential defectors have decided to adopt a wait-and-see attitude and that each day that goes by without a decision decreases chances of defections. The most dramatic recruit would be Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. He could save the centrists, but a frustrated leading Shabak hooster yesterday described Mordechai as "a great spin, expressionless, actionless, and full of riddles." Mordechai is not bound ideologically to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but he is repelled by the presence in Shahak's entourage of Yossi Ginosar, who framed him in the Bus 300 incident (Ginosar received a presidential pardon for his deception). Moreover, at this point, Mordechai cannot see any way of being assured by anyone that he will be defense minister again. In the event a national unity government is set up after the elections, or even if Barak and Shahak set up a coalition, he will be out of the job, no matter which party he joins. Mordechai is thus in no rush and needs to see who is taking off. The problem is that his prudence is costing Shahak momentum. Limor Livnat is bound by thick ideological tethers and she prefers a separate Meridor option, because Shahak is too far left for her. Her hesitation is keeping Mordechai from deciding. On the Labor side, the consensus for now is that Shahak fumbled his pass. The polls show that support for him is down and that the public did not like his wan debut performance. This discourages Labor waverers from cutting the cord. It is reckoned that only former party secretary-general Nissim Zivili might cross the lines, perhaps accompanied by MK Hagai Merom, both of whom have burned their personal bridges with party chairman Ehud Barak. Paradoxically, Shahak managed to buoy Labor confidence. He is no longer seen as someone who could split the party and destroy its hopes to win. "Shahak gave Labor a bad nightmare," MK Avraham Shohat admits, "but in the light of day, the menace isn't all he was cracked up to be."

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

MIKE KAPLAN CAYNUN

Funeral at the Kfar Sava Cemetery, at 11:30 a.m., on Friday, January 8, 1999.

Mother: Rhona
His children, sister and families

To the Bernstein and Avi-Chal family

Deepest condolences
on the passing of

ZALMAN CHAIM BERNSTEIN

Founder and chairperson of the Avi-Chal Foundation
Devoted supporter of commander training in the IDF

Brig-Gen. Ran Galinka
Commander
IDF Education and Youth Corps

Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem

The International Board of Directors,
International Board of Governors,
Professor Jonathan Halevy, Director-General,
Management and Staff

mourn the passing of a devoted friend
and benefactor of
Shaare Zedek Medical Center

SANFORD ZALMAN BERNSTEIN

and extend sincerest condolences to his beloved
wife, Mem, and all the family.

בנהמת ציון וירושלים תגומדו

We mourn the loss of our friend
and the loss to the Jewish world.

ZALMAN BERNSTEIN

Our thoughts and love are with
Mem and the family.

Libby and Moshe Werthan



deeply mourns the passing of

ZALMAN CHAIM BERNSTEIN

We extend our condolences to the bereaved family.



With sorrow we announce the passing of
ZALMAN BERNSTEIN

a pillar of our congregation,
and offer our condolences to the family.

The funeral will take place today at the Mount of Olives.
The Board and Congregation of Beit Yisrael
Synagogue, Yemin Moshe

The tombstone in loving memory of
JACK SHESTOPAL

will be consecrated on
Sunday, January 10, 1999 at 10:30 a.m.
at the Shikun Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya.

Esther Shestopal and Family

DOGS

Continued from Page 1

"As revealed in its sanitation rules, the IDF is very concerned about the health and welfare of its troops," the statement added.

After shooting the dogs, the rangers then searched the dunes for other strays and fired at a pack, but none were hit, the army said. The NRA said that its rangers

had been asked by the army to get rid of strays which had been harassing soldiers at the base. They said the shooting was in coordination with the base commander, and that the dead dogs were taken to the Veterinary Institute in Beit Dagan. Altmann said the soldiers told her they had befriended the dogs, fed them and even given them names. Let Animals Live protested the way the dogs were shot and one left wounded, bleeding and suffering.

The Shalem Center

mourns the loss of

ZALMAN C. BERNSTEIN

devoted friend and partner

We extend our condolences to his wife
Mem and to the entire Bernstein family

Ronald S. Lauder, Chairman
Roger Hertog, Trustee
Barry Klein, Trustee
Yoram Hazony, President

With deepest condolences,
we mourn the passing of

ZALMAN C. BERNSTEIN

a true visionary
and friend of the people of Israel

The Bank of Jerusalem Ltd.

We deeply mourn the passing of our
close friend and neighbor

ZALMAN C. BERNSTEIN

Our love and deepest sympathy to his wife Mem.

He will be terribly missed by us all.

Our Rosh Chodesh Club
Valerie and Alan Adler
Shelia and Nachum Gelber
Tina and David Gurtler
Gloria and Mike Kramer
Belda and Marcel Lindenbaum
Eva and Eddie Sterngold

PARDES INSTITUTE

The Board and Staff of Pardes
mourn the passing of

ZALMAN C. BERNSTEIN

a true friend and supporter of Jewish education
and extend their deepest condolences to

Mem, the Bernstein family
and the AVI CHAI Foundation

חמקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

We express our heartfelt condolences to
Mem, Claude, Rachel Leah and all members
of the family of

ZALMAN BERNSTEIN

The memory of his acts of charity,
kindness and hospitality that elevated
Jerusalem will be an example to us forever.

May you all be consoled among the
mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Larry, Marsha, David, Talya,
Hannah and Daniel Roth

Bar-Ilan University

deeply mourns the passing of

ZALMAN CHAIM BERNSTEIN

Founder and Chairman of the AVI CHAI Foundation

A dear friend, visionary Jewish leader committed
to encouraging harmony among Jews of all backgrounds,
and doctor honoris causa recipient of Bar-Ilan University.
Under his leadership, the Foundation established the
AVI CHAI Chair in Society and Judaism at the university in 1996.

The university extends deepest condolences to his wife Mem,
his mother Martha, children, grandchildren and the entire family.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

With great sadness and an aching heart,
we announce the passing of our
beloved founding Chairman

ZALMAN CHAIM BERNSTEIN

a man of great vision and deed

Our hearts are with his mother Martha, wife Mem, children Claude,
Leslie and Rochel-Leah, grandchildren and the entire family.

The funeral will take place today, Friday, January 8, 1999
(20 Tevet 5759) at 2:15 p.m. at the Mount of Olives.
For transportation and other details, call 02-624-3330.



Trustees and Staff

BEIT MORASHA OF JERUSALEM



THE ACADEMY OF JEWISH CULTURE

The faculty, staff and students of Beit Morasha
are deeply saddened by the passing of

ZALMAN CHAIM BERNSTEIN

whose vision and leadership of the Jewish people brought to fruition
the establishment of Beit Morasha of Jerusalem.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family

Michael Zivneri
Chairman of the Board

Professor Benjamin Ish-Shalom
Rector

Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Riskin
President

Peter's friends

Oh spinner man, where you gonna run to? Now that Israeli politicians are trawling the world for the fiercest election campaign sharks, they would be wise to study the cautionary tale on the sins of spin from Tony Blair's friend.

After the longest honeymoon in history, the glittering government of New Labour has taken a series of New Year body blows that have left its admirers gasping for breath. At the heart of the matter is the fall from grace of New Labour's Lucifer - Prime Minister Tony Blair's spinnmeister extraordinaire, Peter Mandelson, a

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

magician credited with one of the most brilliant election campaigns in history. "He obfuscated so that Blair could be transparent," said the *Guardian* in awe after the election landslide. In his glory days, Mandelson was known in the media as the prince of darkness, or "spinster without portfolio."

The said *Daily Telegraph* last mid-winter explained a freak burst of warm sunny weather thus: "Acting on a memo from Peter Mandelson, the sun shone and was too scared to go in for a fortnight."

Money, money, money Blair dragged his wizard out of the shadows last July and put him in charge of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) where, by all accounts, he was doing an excellent job. This man, who brought an exciting whiff of brimstone to the stuffy corridors of power, was forced to resign over a boring home-loan he neglected to declare. There was no hint of anything illegal or dishonest, just one of those "lapses of judgment" that requires men of honor to resign in British politics - a concept long vanished from Israel since the honorable Yitzhak Rabin quit over his wife's foreign bank account.

Mandelson quit as trade and industry secretary after it was revealed that he had accepted a loan of \$600,000 two years ago from his friend Geoffrey Robinson, the government paymaster general, to buy a house in west London's fashionable Notting Hill. The loan was 10 times Mandelson's annual salary at the time - British home buyers normally can get mortgages only up to three times their salary.

Robinson, whose business affairs were under investigation by the DTI, also resigned, but with the more usual politician's whine that the press was out to get him. The press got its own back by saying he was leaving office to spend more time with his money.

Spin I'm in

The strange twist to the Mandelson story is that he appears to have been brought down by a rival spin doctor serving Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister) Gordon Brown. It was a case of the boss's butler being done in by the estate manager's groom. This week the finance minister's spin doctor, Charlie Whelan, the one whispered to have tipped off

the press about Mandelson's loan, also quit. It was carnage from poison-tipped swords worthy of some political Hamlet.

It used to be said of former British governments that Conservative scandals were always sexual, Labor's financial, and every one's hypocritical. But spin doctor scandals? What have we here, and who's going to put the appropriate spin on it? Many New Labor supporters have become highly critical of the party's un-British obsession with polling, advertising, and spin-doctoring politics.

The phrase spin doctor is obviously American newspeak for press officer, formerly Mr. Bland or Mr. Bore. Language pundits trace it to the 1980s US election campaigns, when a new breed of aggressive press officers emerged to bombard media corps with their "spin" on the great debates. Charisma, sound-bite, and spin have since become the essential, often the only ingredients, of election campaigns. Experts in the techniques have become the super-models of politics. One problem with the spin doctors is that they have come to be identified with their mentor, rather than his or her party as a whole - this is the latter-day equivalent of the official bard who used to sing the praises of rival chieftains.

Guardians of truth Who therefore should be surprised by a war of the wizards, each seeking to cast a more powerful media spell than the other. Mandelson was brought low by a leak to the media - Achilles raised above his station and then shot in the heel by a barb from a jealous practitioner of his former trade. Such classical allusions were all the rage in sectors of the British press that don't cater to the nation's semi-literate (tabloid readers), as if the fall of Mandelson already is the stuff of legend. One recalled Icarus who flew too close to the sun. The *Times* mused on Becky Sharp in Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, a social climber with no money who was brought down by her "sowing social ambition."

In the movie *Peter's Friends*, Peter (Stephen Fry) invites a group of old friends to spend Christmas in his new mansion. Peter has a secret to shock them all. Life can imitate art - except Peter Mandelson's secret was not about being gay (no secret), but that he borrowed the money for the mansion from a government official. Mandelson's sin was vain rather than venal, but social climbing above one's means is unseemly in a Labor minister, even when the lender is a socialist millionaire.

It was the Labor-supporting *Guardian* that broke the leaked story of the Mandelson loan, but it did not think he should have quit. And why not? A media spy informs me that Mandelson's days of spin are by no means done, and he may resurface soon on "our" side of the fence, as a columnist. For the *Guardian*. So that's where you're gonna go, spinner man.

By news agencies

A US warplane fired a missile at an Iraqi radar site yesterday after the radar targeted Western jets policing Iraq's northern no-fly zone, in the latest confrontation with Baghdad, the Pentagon said.

All aircraft returned safely to their base in Incirlik, Turkey, and there was no immediate assessment of damage to the surface-to-air missile (SAM) radar site, the US Air Force said.

By HIRSH GOKTAS

ANKARA (Reuters) - Veteran leftist Bolent Ecevit was charged yesterday with forming a new government, just two weeks after abandoning a previous attempt, and he pledged a swift end to a crisis that has unsettled Turkey's powerful military.

Ecevit, premier three times in the 1970s, failed last month to put together a coalition, largely because of resistance from conservative leader Tansu Ciller. But a sudden change of heart by Ciller earlier this week reopened the door to Ecevit.

Her decision simultaneously scuppered an attempt by rival conservative Yilmaz Ertugrul to form an administration.

"I don't think we'll have difficulty winning a [parliamentary] vote of confidence," Ecevit told reporters after President Suleyman Demirel named him prime minister-designate.

"I will be able to present a cabinet list to the president on Monday," he said, revising an earlier promise to have his government ready today.

Ecevit's confidence appeared justified when Ciller, an ex-premier, pledged to back his Democratic Left Party in office.

"I said we would back the minority government he is going to form," Ciller told reporters after meeting Ecevit.

Ecevit was later due to meet Ciller's conservative rival, Mesut Yilmaz, whose backing could give Ecevit more than the majority in parliament needed in a confidence vote.

The government, the sixth since 1995, would replace that of caretaker Prime Minister Yilmaz, who was toppled in a parliament vote in November over corruption allegations. It is expected to serve only until elections in April.

Ecevit is best known abroad as the man who ordered the 1974 invasion of Cyprus after an Athens-backed Greek Cypriot coup aimed at annexing the island to Greece. His left of center politics are tempered with a strong nationalist streak.

Armed Serbs block Kosovo road

By JULIANA WOJCILOVIC

PRISTINA (Reuters) - Hundreds of armed Serb civilians blocked a road in Kosovo yesterday to protest against the killing of a Serb security guard on Orthodox Christmas Eve.

"We've had enough. Terrorists are killing us at our workplace, and throw bombs at our kids," a protester said at one roadblock some 10 km. south of Pristina.

Most of the protesters came from the village of Preceze, neighbors of a 34-year-old security guard at a petrol station who was shot dead on Wednesday.

The Serb-run Media Centre blamed the attack on "terrorists" - a term used by the Serbs for the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrillas fighting for Kosovo's independence from Serbia.

"They killed the most peaceful man in our village," the protester said.

Another roadblock was set up

The incident was the fourth in 10 days between Iraq and US and British forces, which launched four days of heavy missile and bombing raids against Iraq in mid-December after Baghdad refused to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors.

The Air Force said the Iraqi SAM radar locked onto coalition aircraft over the northern zone patrolled by American and British jets at about 3:20 a.m.

"An F-16 acted in self-defense and fired a High-Speed, Anti-

Radiation Missile (HARM) to suppress the missile site," the statement released by the Defense Department said.

"The coalition aircraft have all returned safely with no damage. Damage assessment is currently being conducted," it added.

Pentagon officials said an Iraqi Roland short-range, heat-seeking missile targeted the F-16 but did not fire upon it. The officials were not certain whether British jets were also involved.

Meanwhile, sailors aboard the

US aircraft carrier, *USS CARL VINSON*, in the northern Gulf, said yesterday the impeachment proceedings against US President Bill Clinton are a distant - and not very distracting - event.

Crew members of the carrier said they were focusing on their jobs supporting the US jets flying patrol over southern Iraq.

"We are certainly bothered about the leader being impeached," said Lt. Scott Galow, from California, who

maintains ship-board equipment for the aircraft. "But we are here on a mission, and we are going to follow through with it."

Meanwhile, an Iraqi opposition group charged yesterday that the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein recently executed 81 political detainees in a prison near Baghdad.

The London-based Center for Human Rights said the executions took place in Abu Ghraib prison last month, just before the mid-December air strikes.

PM-designate sees end of Turk crisis

By HIRSH GOKTAS

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South African President Nelson Mandela and British Prime Minister Tony Blair share a laugh during a press conference yesterday in Pretoria.

Violence greets Blair on S. African visit

PRETORIA (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Tony Blair and South African President Nelson Mandela said yesterday they had made progress in trying to persuade Libya to surrender two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing.

After talks the two leaders said a senior South African official and the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, would travel shortly to Libya to brief Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

"We have had discussions, we have made good progress and we think we are on the way to resolving all the outstanding issues," Mandela said. He declined to add further comment.

Mandela has been mediating with Gaddafi over proposals to surrender the two Libyan suspects for a trial in the Netherlands under Scottish law.

The two are accused of planting the bomb that blew up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in December 1988, killing 270 people.

In Cape Town meanwhile,

South African police fired stun grenades yesterday to disperse a group of radical Muslims protesting against visiting British Prime Minister Tony Blair and joint American-British air strikes against Iraq.

About 300 supporters of the Muslims Against Global Oppression (MAGO) group gathered at a mosque on the outskirts of the centre of Cape Town, but were denied permission to march by heavily armed police.

"Blair - Blood is on your hands," read one banner carried by the demonstrators, many wearing Arab-style scarves, most of the women in long black robes. "United States, United Kingdom, United Terrorists."

The marchers dispersed after several hours, but dozens soon regrouped outside the American consulate in the city, where they burnt US and Israeli flags and chanted slogans like "Death to America" and "One Blair, One Bully".

An armed police vehicle tried

to force the protesters to move on and they responded by beating on the vehicle with sticks until police fired several stun grenades.

Police clad in riot gear ringed the entrance to the consulate brandishing weapons and scuffled with marchers, as police bundled three members of the group into a van.

The marchers then moved onto the South African parliament, where the British high commission, or embassy, has its offices, and burnt British flags outside the premises.

Blair was in the north of the country meeting President Nelson Mandela and his deputy Thabo Mbeki and was due in Cape Town today, when he will visit an old people's home, decorate British soldiers working here and make a speech.

Security concerns over his visit were heightened after three people were injured on New Year's Day in a bomb at Cape Town's popular Waterfront tourist area.

Another bomb exploded at the US franchise Planet Hollywood restaurant in the same complex in August, killing two and wounding at least 25 including five members of a British family on holiday in the city.

Two men claiming to belong to MAGO told local radio they planted the bomb in retaliation for US missile attacks on targets in Afghanistan and Sudan. But the group later denied responsibility and condemned the blast.

This week police said forensic tests showed the latest bomb was similar to those used at Planet Hollywood and in other recent attacks in the region and said they were following up a letter from a local group claiming responsibility.

The dusty, impoverished Cape Flats on the city's outskirts has long been plagued by gang warfare, but violence has increased in years since the emergence of a Muslim vigilante group which has declared war on gangs peddling drugs.

Malaysia police chief resigns over treatment of Anwar

By NELSON GRAVES

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - Malaysia's police chief quit yesterday to take full responsibility for injuries inflicted on ousted finance minister Anwar Ibrahim in police custody three months ago.

But the country's opposition leader and a rights group said the resignation should not stop authorities from identifying the person or persons responsible for the violence.

They want Prime Minister Mahatma Mohamed to apologize for

having suggested that Anwar's injuries could have been self-inflicted.

Inspector-General of Police Abdul Rahim Noor bowed to a wave of indignation set off when Anwar appeared in court in September with a black eye and bruises on his neck and hands.

Anwar said he had been beaten while in custody.

The outrage crested with a statement by the attorney-general on Tuesday pinning the blame for Anwar's injuries on the police.

'Wine effective against Alzheimers'

LONDON (Reuters) - A glass and a half of wine a day could help stave off neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, according to research published yesterday by Italian scientists, reporting in the British journal *New Scientist*.

Alberto Bertelli and his team at Milan University said a natural chemical, produced by vines and concentrated in both grapes and wine, triggers a seven-fold increase in the activity and effectiveness of an enzyme called map-kinase. Map-kinase stimulates and regenerates nerve cells.

Australian Federation of WIZO

Announces the dedication of the Denny Govendir Auditorium to be held on Sunday, 17th January, 1999 at 4pm at the Kfar Saba Youth Club 6 Yirmiah St. Shikun Kaplan, Kfar Saba.

The Australian Federation of WIZO invites visiting Australians or residents of Israel to attend.

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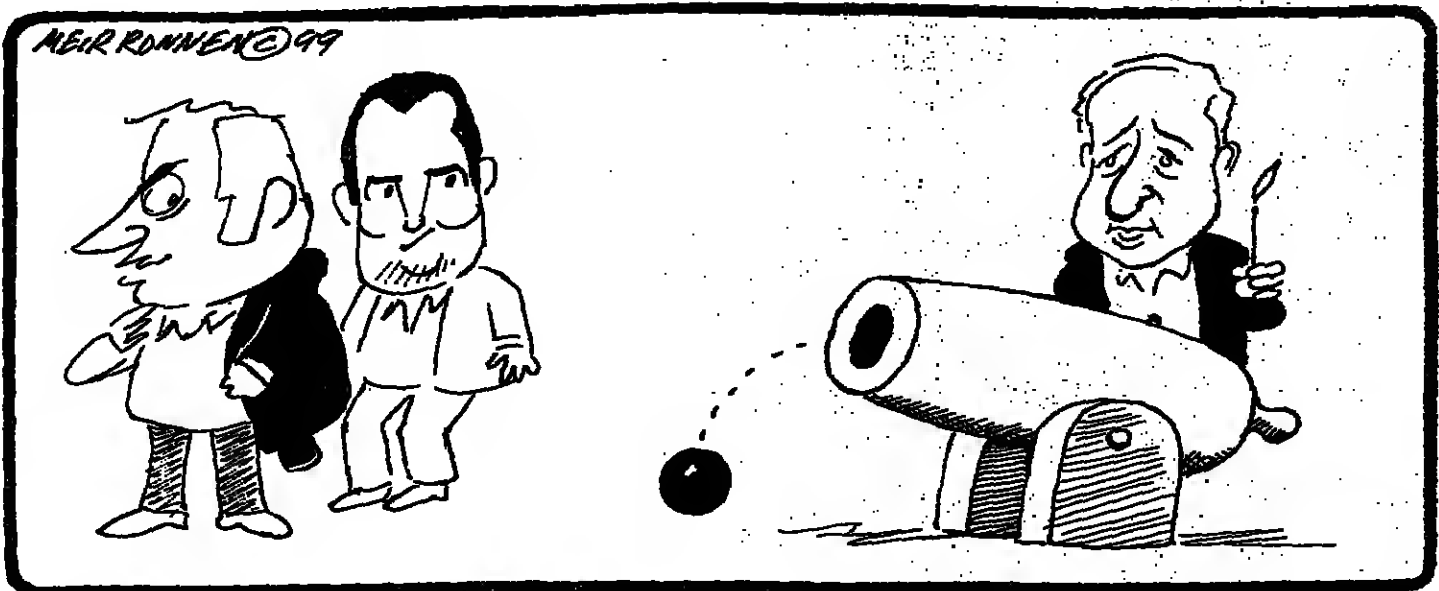
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Democracy (in)action

The second presidential impeachment trial in American history has opened, yet Americans - and the rest of the world - still seem to be denying that something real is happening.
Similarly, Israelis are now waking up to the fact that for the next few months the nation's business will be shoved aside by a messy election campaign.
In both nations, people are getting frustrated with political systems that have become obsessed with themselves, and wish that what they see as unseemly distractions will be quickly over.
Yet both forms of high political theater could have significant real consequences, and are legitimate parts of the package deal called democracy.
The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton is being billed as the "trial of the century," yet it will contain few of the trappings of a conventional American trial.
The "jurors" - all 100 US senators - are hardly impartial, nor will they be sequestered from public opinion. Critical elements, such as the standards of proof, are still up in the air and may be left to each senator to define for himself. Perhaps most importantly, the height of the bar that the president is being measured against, the "high crimes and misdemeanors" standard set by the Constitution, has not been established.
By a two-to-one margin, Americans say that they do not want to see their president removed by the Senate. Yet the senators have the unenviable task of setting precedents that could stand for the next hundred years. Did the president commit perjury and obstruct justice, and if so, how should he be punished? It does not look as if there will be the necessary two-thirds majority to remove the president, and yet even the Democrats are uncomfortable with seeming to condone what the president did.
In the end, the Senate's decision will be a political, not a legal one, despite methods borrowed from the courtroom to reach that decision. A narrow majority of Americans reportedly believe that the Senate should not hold a trial at all, considering it a waste of time since no one believes the president will be convicted.
But as veteran pundit William Safire points out, the Senate's proper deliberation of Clinton's fate "is not an interruption of the nation's business. This month, it is the nation's business."
The legitimacy of a trial, however, does not justify a long one. While a real trial must continue as long as it takes to properly weigh all the evidence, there is no excuse for political decisions, as momentous as they may be, to drag out in a similar fashion.
The problem with the unpopular process of impeachment in the US, and the messy election process here, is not with the principle of dedicating valuable time and resources to purely political struggles, but with the way such struggles are allowed to monopolize the political agenda.
The campaign announcement of Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, for example, was not only broadcast live on television, but the Knesset practically shut down in the middle of the day to watch it. The Knesset certainly has the right to call new elections, but not to suspend all other business for the duration. In addition, it was wrong to allow so much time - four-and-a-half months - before elections, when the law provides for elections in 60 days if the government falls in a no-confidence vote.
The implications of the US presidency and Congress being completely consumed by an impeachment trial are, of course, more far-reaching. World events do not grind to a halt to accommodate Washington's political schedule. Clinton has done his best to demonstrate that he is able to function under threat of impeachment - the Wye summit, his visit to Israel and the territories, and Operation Desert Fox against Iraq, all took place during this period.
But even his best efforts cannot erase the perception that he is using foreign policy to distract from his domestic troubles, thereby tainting America's credibility.
In both the US and Israeli political dramas, the worst situation is the current paralyzing limbo. Democracies will, from time to time, seek to remove an official or renew his mandate in midstream, but the process is a painful one. If it is necessary or unavoidable, it should at least be done as quickly as possible.
And even in the midst of the process, politicians and the media must remember that daily concerns do not disappear.



A choice, not an echo

The original concept of autonomy was designed to provide the Palestinians with maximum political self-expression, short of statehood. Except for a small minority, all the political parties in Israel agreed that an independent Palestinian state was too much of a risk and a danger.
Contrary to this undertaking, however, the Rabin-Peres government deliberately set in motion a process that would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River. By the time the Peres government was removed from office, it had become abundantly clear that we had been saddled with a hostile entity, governed by a terror-prone leadership, that was serving as a safe haven for terrorists.
Binyamin Netanyahu was elected against this background. Most people did not expect him to renounce the Oslo Agreements outright and trigger a full-fledged confrontation with the PLO. We did, however, expect him to undertake a thorough review of the Oslo process and steer it toward a healthier track.
This would have entailed, first and foremost, applying a brake to the slide toward a PLO-terrorist state. In addition, he was expected to serve notice to Yasser Arafat, right from the outset, that he must choose between living up to every undertaking in the agreements and a total suspension of the Oslo process. Netanyahu would have thus unmasked the total bankruptcy of the previous government's policy of "promoting the peace process as if there is no terrorism and fighting terrorism as if there is no peace process."
We were all sick and tired of Hamas terror attacks, coupled with PLO prevarication, double-dealing, and deception. A firm, principled, and consistent Israeli posture would have elicited popular support here and understanding in the US.
any building in Har Homa or Ras al-Amud.
THE FINAL blow was the Wye Plantation agreement. Contrary to the Netanyahu's protestations, that agreement has not rectified any of the disastrous blunders in the Oslo Accords. If anything, it only compounded the grave situation which those accords had created. It enabled, by such measures as an attempt at a "peace process" to be another blunder. Barak is an inexperienced novice in the complex political arena. He is, to a large extent, a prisoner of the Rabin-Peres ephemeral achievements in peace.
Amnon Lipkin-Shahak is another candidate who mistakenly believes that being a former general is a sure guarantee of success in politics. He is trying hard to sell a centrist image. But once he and his competitors begin disclosing each other's past, Shahak's central role in creating and promoting the Oslo process will place him squarely in the Rabin-Peres-Barak camp.
We cannot afford a leadership that is tied, ideologically or politically, to the Oslo process. We have paid too high a price for governments that gambled with the country's security and future. We desperately need a new and courageous leadership that is not beholden to the disastrous policies of the past and is capable of adopting a course toward a secure and stable future for our state and people.
The writer is a former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

The argument that if we reject Netanyahu, we will be saddled with Ehud Barak does not hold water

Europe's dream - Israel's Concern

Europe's dream of a "United States of Europe" is a long-held dream of the Jewish people, which has fulfilled its own ancient dream of "returning to the land of our ancestors," and should be happy that the peoples of Europe are advancing toward the fulfillment of their desire, by monetary-economic unification, performed of their own free will, not as a forced unification accompanied by destruction and slaughter, the route that cost the Jewish people six million victims.
But the congratulations on unity are mixed with concern about the behavior of some countries in the European Union, which are trying to exploit the economic power of unity to force EU participation in the Middle East peace process.
The repeated attempts by EU countries to use economic means to manipulate Israel into diplomatic concessions rule the EU out in advance as a potential partner in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians or the Arab countries.
It comes as no surprise that the new German ruling team of Gerhard Schröder and Joschka Fischer, who are trying to present a policy based on moral principles, rejects this approach. But France, leader in the pressure on Israel, is unwilling to give up the status it had in the Middle East in 1956, before joining Britain and Israel in the view Charles de Gaulle's proposals before the Six Day War, for a summit meeting of the leaders of the superpowers, naturally including France and Britain, to reach a settlement. It's also the perspective in which to view the pressure by the EU to participate in the Geneva Conference after the Yom Kippur War, which was held under the auspices of the US and USSR alone. At the Madrid Conference the EU gained the status of an "observer," and also spoke. But the EU felt insulted by the lower status.
This feeling of neglect has led European politicians to make out-spoken attacks on Israel. One of them, Willy Claes, former secretary-general of NATO, proposed that Israel should be punished by economic sanctions for refusing to allow the EU to participate in the peace process. This hostile statement didn't influence the leaders of the EU, and Israel even later invited him, as a musician, to conduct the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.
Of course, more balanced European politicians know that Europe sells Israel twice as much as it buys from us. European exports to Israel last year reached \$14 billion. The EU isn't about to casually sacrifice such an important customer.
SO THERE'S no danger that even the most zealous European countries will press for the abolition of the economic agreement with Israel. They only try occasionally to annoy us, sometimes concerning exports from territories beyond the Green Line, and sometimes concerning our participation in the new research and development fund the EU is setting up.
The latest example concerned the new R&D proposal for the next four years. France is trying to prevent our participation because of diplomatic disagreements, and Germany is claiming that political considerations should not be involved in economic decisions. Many European companies are interested in Israel's participation, but the French foreign minister is under pressure from his National Assembly, which last April recommended using the economic stick to force Israel to change its policy towards the Palestinians.
At the next meeting of the council of European foreign ministers, to be held in Bonn at the end of the month, the German foreign minister, who met his Israeli counterpart Ariel Sharon this week, will have to struggle against the French proposal, supported by Belgium.
It's possible that we should reconsider our enthusiasm to join the R&D fund, since the experience of the last three years has taught us that what we gained from participation was less than what we invested. We invested \$100 million, and Israeli companies received only \$55 million in tenders. But French opposition makes participation in the R&D fund a diplomatic challenge.
The attempt by the EU to restrict our participation is presented as a reaction to our not implementing the Wye agreement. This is not the case. France and Belgium have not yet ratified the 1995 agreement, even though they had enough time to ratify it before the Netanyahu government was formed. The French decided to oppose Israel's participation in the R&D fund many months before the Wye agreement was signed, and so they can't claim that their position is a consequence of Israel's not fulfilling the Wye agreement.
The fact is that the European countries are trying to force Israel to agree to the EU's direct participation in the negotiations with the Palestinians. But this pressure is counterproductive. The more they bring economic pressure to bear to achieve their strategic aims, the more we will have to strengthen our opposition to such dangerous participation.
In the early days of the state, when American economic aid stood at \$23 million, the US once employed sanctions against Israel by stopping aid. But when the aid reached \$3 billion a year, that stopped happening, and so the US can perform a positive role in the Israeli-Arab negotiations.
It's true that the beginning of the euro is a festive occasion for the new Europe, but the use of patronizing economic pressure, as in the old days of colonialism, to achieve the strategic aim of regaining Europe's former status in the Middle East is completely illegitimate. It may harm Israel without benefiting the EU.

Some European countries are trying to exploit the economic power of unity to force EU participation in the Middle East peace process

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FALSE CHARGES

Sir, - Re: Clinton Bailey's article "Thoughts on the murder of a Beduin" (January 1), the Supreme Court has turned down appeals presented by Beduins and Dr. Clinton Bailey, and yet Bailey continues to vilify.
No one denies Salmaan Abu Julaydan was shot and killed. No one denies his killer is free. The Nature and National Parks Protection Authority reported the incident immediately after it occurred, and sincerely regrets Abu Julaydan's tragic death. The authority asked the police to complete its investigation as quickly as possible and to bring the guilty parties to trial.
If the police were convinced that an authority warden had shot the victim, it would have made a formal accusation. Even though six months have passed, the police have not done this.
The police have also not brought charges against the military officer who fired a weapon and who was involved in this tragic affair, nor against any other party.
The victim was in the heart of a military training zone, under questionable circumstances, in the dead of night, and by any opinion, was not participating in a moonlit nature tour. Bailey failed to mention these "insignificant facts."
"For the past 22 years, [the Beduin] have been marked as enemies of the state in the NRA's eyes," states Clinton, and in this way slanders both public servants and the judicial system in Israel.
If the Beduin were indeed enemies of the state, why would the Green Patrol warden take it upon themselves to immunize the Beduin's flocks, to set up a model grazing ranch for them, and help locate grazing land for the spring and summer months. Since 1977, the head count in the flocks has grown from 70,000 to 140,000.
Bailey has ignored this detail. Bailey's claims regarding goats are untrue. The law regarding goat-caused damage has been brought to hearing in the Supreme Court seven times in cases against the state, the Green Patrol and the Nature and National Parks Protection Authority. The Supreme Court has turned down Bailey's appeals seven times. Bailey fails to inform his readers of this.
Bailey does not suffer from an excess of reliability when he presents in his article examples that

HELPFUL ARTICLE

Sir, - This time last year, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to undergo a radical mastectomy and removal of the lymph nodes. My first thought was that it was a death sentence.
I have two wonderful grown sons who have their own families and live outside Jerusalem, so I couldn't cry on their shoulders. My husband, who tried to support me, has his own chronic medical condition, so I couldn't discuss with him my black thoughts.
So from where did I get encouragement? From a Jerusalem Post article by your health reporter, Judy Siegel-Izkovich, who interviewed Hinda Gross of Hadassah-Israel. Ms. Gross had herself undergone the same illness but had bravely overcome it.
The sincere and clear article

AHARON VARDI
Director-General
Nature and National Parks
Protection Authority
Ramat Gan.

showed me that with God's help and a little luck, there is life after mastectomy.
A year has passed, and I am well. I felt I had to thank your reporter and Hinda Gross for the support, encouragement and help that I received from their words.

NAME WITHHELD UPON REQUEST

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On January 8, 1934, The Palestine Post reported at length on the activities of the Russian-born banking adventurer, Alexander Slavitsky, who allegedly had swindled French investors of more than 500 billion francs, causing a more serious political and financial scandal in Paris than the unfortunate Panama Canal affair.
25 years ago: On January 8, 1974, The Jerusalem Post reported that in Oslo, six persons, residents of Israel, accused of espionage and conspiracy to commit murder pleaded not guilty in connection with the killing of a suspected Black September leader, Ahmed Bouchikhi.
Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

SOME HUMANS think the year 2000 will bring computer chaos, alien invasions and maybe Armageddon. But we predict flying houses, electric clothes and snacks made from underwear.
According to Uncle John's Indispensable Guide to the Year 2000 (Bathroom Reader's Press), these and other inventions will apparently be developed during the next year. Or so said the experts of past decades.
For instance, in 1967, Science Digest predicted that by 2000, "discarded rayon underwear will be bought by chemical factories and converted into candy."
A 1981 book predicted solar-powered clothes that retain heat in the winter and coolness in the summer. One designer even said people would be able to "press a button to formulate our clothing... Do we want it to be opaque, should it give off steam, do we want it to light up, do we want it to glow in the dark?"
Other forecasts:
- In 1966, Arthur C. Clarke wrote in Vogue magazine that houses in 2001 would be able to fly, thanks to building materials made stronger than steel but lighter than aluminum. "Whole communities may migrate south in the winter," he said.
- In 1950, Popular Mechanics envisioned living rooms with drains in the floor, and all the furniture and curtains made of plastic so you could houseclean by bosing everything down.
- Popular Mechanics also forecast cheap plastic plates that would melt in hot water so housewives could "wash dirty dishes right down the drain."
- In 1966, Time magazine said that by 2000, "machines will be producing so much that everyone in the US will, in effect, be independently wealthy."
A NEW Mexico woman who invented a talking cigarette pack 15 years ago as a novelty gag now thinks the device should be used to discourage smoking. Mae Stangle says money from the recent tobacco settlement could finance mandatory talking cigarette packs that spout such warnings as "Spore your lungs" and "Smoking is stupid." A computer chip in the packs would be activated every time a cancer stick is removed.
(LA Times)

سكنا من الأصل

Please stand for something

MICHAEL MARMUR

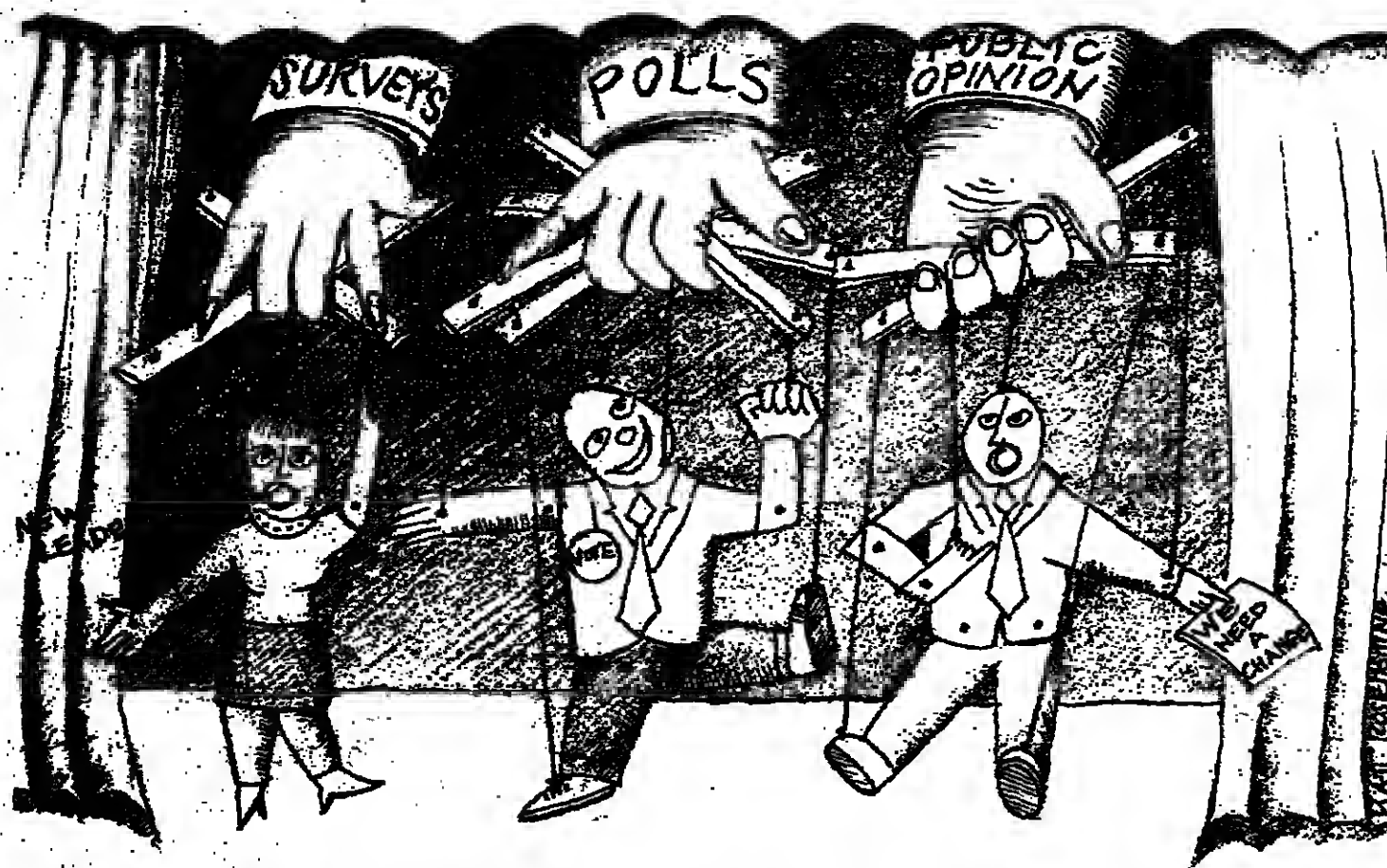
Everyone is running in this year's elections, but not necessarily in the same race.

Some are running to become prime minister. Some are running for the Knesset. Some are running from the electorate, preferring to nestle comfortably in someone else's list. Some are running to overtake their opponents, neither from the Right nor from the Left, but rather from the center. Some, like dazed gatecrashers, are running away from one party and are looking for a new one. Many are running to the airport. At least one candidate, to judge from his approach to democracy and the rule of law, is running for czar.

By popular demand, and against my better instincts, I too have decided to throw my hat into the ring. Please understand that I have only made this decision in the face of irrefutable evidence. A majority of the members of my immediate household have indicated that they would vote for me. My wife and children, and indeed, my dog, are all in favor. My support is rock solid. My dependence on public opinion surveys is reflective of the current national trend, and indicative of the great change which has swept the country. Whereas Israel was once governed by Poles, today it is governed by polls.

Readers will no doubt be keen to hear details of my manifesto, and well before the elections themselves such details will indeed be made available, although not at this time. My advisors are still working with me on the form and substance of my program and, in some cases, they are even helping me to make-stand where the form ends and the substance begins. I can assure all prospective supporters that just as soon as I have any ideas, they will be the first to know.

Allow me to say a word about my opponents, who have carried out a cynical and negative campaign



against me. Since I have been scrupulous in the preference of platitudes over attitudes, it is ungracious on their part to find fault with my opinions, when it is hard enough finding any opinions at all.

I have been asked about the possibility of future coalitions, and on this issue I am almost absolutely adamant. Any other individual or party willing to agree to my principles, or indeed willing to find me some principles, may be considered a suitable partner. Now is the time for unity and unity - in short, anonymity.

MANY OF my comrades from army days have expressed solidarity with my campaign. Admittedly, I have few connections in the upper echelons of the military, but on the other hand I can boast more support amongst flat-footed, overweight new immigrants than any of my opponents. I have reserved the 61st place on my list for a woman, and I

can confirm that no sector of Israeli society will be ignored - although most will be misunderstood and patronized.

We are at a crossroads. Traffic is heavy from the south and there are roadworks at the junction. The

riders swept and the windows washed, if we are to make a special collection for the garage door, only strong and fresh leadership can give hope to the electorate.

As our political leaders run and run in the coming months, we

Whereas Israel was once governed by Poles, today it is governed by polls

lights are not working. People are looking for a change, a fourth way, a fifth dimension, a sixth sense, a seventh heaven. We need a future worthy of our children, a present worthy of our past, and a cliché we can all believe in.

These, in a nutshell, are my beliefs. I hope that when the elections for *va'ad bayit* (residents' committee) finally are held, this outline of my values and principles will be enough to sway the vote in my favor. If we are to keep the cor-

riders swept and the windows washed, if we are to make a special collection for the garage door, only strong and fresh leadership can give hope to the electorate.

As our political leaders run and run in the coming months, we

greatly to be desired. And yet it is worth distinguishing between the Golden Mean and its fake equivalent, the Plastic Meaningless. Not every protestation of moderation is a guarantee of virtue or merit.

We confront weighty issues, many of existential significance. No number of sound bites and photo opportunities can blur the distinction, for example, between those whose Judaism teaches them of the inalienable rights of all human beings, and those whose Judaism teaches them a different lesson. The suggestion that some parody of unity can bridge these divides is absurd.

Conventional political wisdom holds that to win an election one must win the center ground. Those who wish to run the country are running away from their own beliefs and principles to make good in the polls. But support can be won not only by running for something, but also by standing for something.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

What's Left?

Had he been a Shakespearean character like *Hamlet's* Laertes, instead of a New Labor caricature of a socialist, Ehud Barak might have heeded Ophelia's advice to her brother: "Wear your rue with a difference."

But Barak is no agonizing Hamlet and his struggle to be different by shifting the electoral debate to domestic issues is scathingly short of all the rue, agony, and remorse which could have made it effective. Barak noticed early on that leftism, in the Israeli sense of this loaded term, is a sales-promoter's nightmare. Hence his prudent refusal to champion Palestinian statehood, waver on Jerusalem, or sling mud at settlers. If centrism worked for Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, and Gerhard Schröder, he evidently told himself

"200,000 jobless people are waiting for answers" (actually their total is lower and on the decline) is nice, but embarrassingly shallow.

To seriously discuss the economy, Barak must first account for Shohat's abysmal record at the Treasury, and then address the current government's accomplishments and failures, not in handling the budget - where it was no worse, and often better, than others - but in restructuring, where it failed to deliver on most of its promises.

During Shohat's four years at the Treasury, even such economic powerhouses as Germany, Sweden, and France somberly sought ways to part with the unaffordable welfare state. In Israel, meanwhile, the public sector ballooned by 17 percent, as its salaries were hiked 20% while pri-

Barak's economic jingoism ignores Shohat's abysmal record at the Treasury

vate-sector pay actually shrank by 6.5%. Corporate welfare celebrated, with multinational firms like Intel and Volkswagen skimming hefty, manifestly anti-economic, multi-million-dollar aid packages.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut was promised a budget-financed pension plan that would have weighed intolerably on future generations had it not been axed. Privatization under Shohat amounted to a mere four of 75 candidate companies, and inflation burst through the double-digit barrier. So economically autistic was that administration that several months before the 1996 elections it had the nerve to jolt gasoline taxes 15%, as its fiscal orgy resulted in a yawning \$5.1 billion current-account deficit.

Throughout it all Shohat, whose economic rearing was as mayor of a metropolis called Arad, fiercely fought world renowned economist Jacob Frenkel, who boldly confronted Labor's spendthrift nightmare by keeping the shkel expensive.

Fortunately, much of this was offset by Netanyahu's and then-finance minister Dan Meridor's MIS 7.2b budget cut in the summer of '96. Had that not been done, we would have ended up in the IMF's intensive care unit, alongside Thailand, Malaysia, and Korea.

In the absence of more specific pronouncements on his part, and bearing in mind his acceptance of Shohat's de facto role as shadow finance minister, one must suspect that Barak's economics of happiness will simply be more of the same tax-and-spend budgeting with which we are all too familiar.

By the same token, during Barak's leadership of the opposition some economically momentous events took place, including the shkel's liberalization, the sale of Israel's largest business entity - and Labor's former financial engine - Bank Hapoalim, and the stillborn attempt to break Egged's monopoly.

What was Barak when all this happened? Was he, for against, or what? Would he have the wisdom and guts to confront the Israel Electric Corporation, the Ports Authority, or Egged, and end their costly monopolies, or will he dance to their tune the way Shohat did?

Judging by who his friends are, Barak must understand that for now what we see is not a Tony Blair but a Michael Foot.

Barak is known to be a gifted pianist, and once he even half-seriously promised to play in public on his victory night, should it come. Surely Barak wouldn't allow a bunch of one-stringed fiddlers to turn his long-awaited *Wedding March* number into a *Rhapsody in Blue*. Why then allow them to do that to the economy?

There are no keys to heaven

GERALD M. STEINBERG

The readiness to sacrifice one's life for the good or survival of the rest of society is the ultimate act of altruism. In Iran and other parts of the Middle East, "martyrs" are recruited for human-wave attacks and suicide-terror missions by promising them "keys to heaven" and a surfeit of virgins when they get there.

In Israel and in the Jewish tradition, however, we have no such inducements to soldiers. In our case, the willingness to participate in dangerous and life-threatening military situations is based solely on the need to protect the Jewish people and the State of Israel. In the 1940s, Jews fought and often lost their lives to protect the Yishuv against terror. After 1948, with the establishment of the state, the Arab invasions and terror made continued sacrifice necessary, to ensure that the nation would survive. In the wars of 1967 and 1973, at all levels of society, the risks were deemed necessary to protect the country and the survival of the Jewish people.

In this context, the question today is whether it is necessary to continue to risk the lives of Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon. Whose lives are these soldiers protecting, and can these goals be accomplished at a lower price and with lesser risks?

At the most immediate level, the military presence in southern Lebanon is designed to defend Israeli living near the northern border. Since the mid-1970s, these cities and settlements have been under attack, first from Palestinian terrorists, then, after 1982, from the Iranian and Syrian-backed Hizbullah. Beyond the border area, without the Israeli military presence, Hizbullah and Palestinian groups might return to using Lebanese bases to launch major terror attacks throughout Israel and abroad.

As long as the Lebanese government and its Syrian masters do not take responsibility for preventing these attacks, an Israeli military presence seems required. Opponents of unilateral withdrawal argue that if the IDF leaves Lebanon, not only the northern settlements, but also much of central Israel would be threatened by terror and missile attacks. The threat of air force bombing, they claim, would be insufficient to deter these attacks.

There are opposing views, including the argument that unilateral withdrawal might shake up both the Lebanese and Syrian political systems enough to eventually lead to a more stable situation. If withdrawal reduces Hizbullah's legitimacy in Lebanon, causing it to lose support,

and also puts pressure on Syria to withdraw its own forces from Lebanon, perhaps the result will be positive. But this is a long shot, with no guarantees.

EVEN IF the strategy is difficult to change, however, perhaps the tactics can be altered to reduce the

are illustrations of the difficulties in implementing this strategy. This approach requires a highly trained and competent military.

As a society that puts a high premium on life and survival, we also have an obligation to ensure that when to do send soldiers to risk their lives, they are properly pre-

There have been far too many accidents and incidents of 'friendly fire' to blame them all on bad luck, unqualified soldiers, or difficult terrain

costs. The very difficult terrain and the nature of the war of attrition used by Hizbullah place the IDF at a distinct disadvantage. Indeed, the nightly patrols and other active measures are a step in the right direction in increasing the cost to the terrorists, perhaps eventually forcing them to a negotiated settlement.

At the same time, these new tactics and patrols raise new risks and requirements. The number of deaths from accidents and "friendly fire"

pared and led. In war, there are no guarantees; death can come from enemy attack, equipment failure, training accidents, or "friendly fire."

To the degree that modern warfare requires some degree of realistic training, with live ammunition and full-scale exercises, there is always some risk involved. However, the military commanders whom we appoint to lead our soldiers, and who are given almost total control over their lives, have the responsibility to take all possible measures

Bring Jonathan home

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

President Bill Clinton is scheduled to conclude another review of the Jonathan Pollard case next week. The latest, and possibly the last, review is the one offered by Clinton after reneging on his unequivocal promise at Wye to release Pollard.

No defender of Pollard has been heard on his behalf. His fate will again be decided on the basis of information supplied solely by those determined to see him die in jail.

Unlike Alfred Dreyfus, Pollard is not innocent. He committed a serious crime for which he has already served a longer sentence than anyone ever convicted of the same offense. The average prison term for spying for allies is two to four years. But just as the Dreyfus case was an indictment of French justice, so is the Pollard case a stark indictment of American justice.

Pollard was charged and pleaded guilty to one count of delivering defense information with intent to aid a foreign nation - i.e., Israel, a staunch American ally. As in any espionage case, the US government was eager to avoid a trial and the inevitable exposure of intelligence secrets such a trial entails.

its tilt toward Iraq in the early '80s, which included countenancing Iraq's missile buildup and development of weapons of mass destruction.

Let there be any doubt of the strength of Pollard's bargaining position, consider the case of Aldrich Ames. For large payments to support a lavish lifestyle, Ames exposed over 30 American agents to the Soviets, leading directly to their executions. He nevertheless secured in return for his plea bargain, assignment to a minimum security prison, where he has his own private room and TV, no work requirement, and access to an 18-hole golf course.

Meanwhile, Pollard shares a cell with four other inmates, works eight hours or more a day, and is denied kosher food. And that's a picnic after seven years in a hospital for the criminally insane and subsequently in isolation in America's toughest federal prison.

In return for his plea bargain, Pollard received the maximum sentence under the statute - in short, a "bargain" in which one side received absolutely nothing.

Government prosecutors made three promises to Pollard: that they would not ask for a life sentence, that they would inform the court of the great importance of his cooperation in the assessment of damage from his activities, and that they would limit their presen-

tation to the court to the "facts and circumstances of the case." The prosecutors broke, in the words of Washington DC Circuit Court Judge Stephen Williams, every one of these promises in spirit and the third in letter as well.

MENTION OF Pollard's cooperation - including nine months of

US government prosecutors made three promises to Pollard - and broke them all

interrogation and 52 polygraphs - was tucked away in the middle of a section of the government's submission detailing why he should receive a substantial sentence. Far from limiting themselves to the "facts," the government prosecutors loaded their submission with the most conclusory allegations of Pollard's venality, addiction to a high lifestyle, arrogance, and deceitfulness - allegations belied by the fact that Pollard initially volunteered his information to Israel and it was his handlers who insisted on relatively small payments.

Though he did not explicitly ask for a life sentence, the chief prosecutor later told reporters that he hoped Pollard "never sees the light of day again." And he acted

accordingly.

Most damaging, of course, was the last minute in camera submission of then-defense secretary Caspar Weinberger. Pollard and his attorneys were never given a copy of the allegations presented to the sentencing judge by Weinberger, and were thus unable to rebut them. It is harder to imag-

Compare the case of US Navy Cmdr. Michael Schwartz (not Jewish), who sold secrets to the Saudis. Schwartz's only punishment was a less than honorable discharge, and nary a word of criticism of the Saudis was heard.

Weinberger had good reason to be piqued with Pollard. He favored keeping Israel vulnerable, and Pollard reduced that vulnerability. But the claim that Pollard damaged US security interests will not bear scrutiny. Professor Angelo Codevilla, who as chief counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee in 1985 had access to the full Pollard file, recently stated flatly that while Pollard subverted Washington's then pro-Iraq and pro-Arab policy, he barely affected intelligence operations: "No US communication intercept system was taken out of service or had its budget affected... nor was any US agent 'forced out of the cold.'"

Clinton is fond of lecturing Israel on the importance of confidence-building measures. Israel herself could use some confidence-building measures now, especially when Pollard's chief prosecutors seem to be the same CIA charged with policing the Wye accords.

In seeking those measures, let us recall as Jews and Israelis, the words of the *Shulchan Aruch*: "There is no greater mitzva than the redemption of captives."

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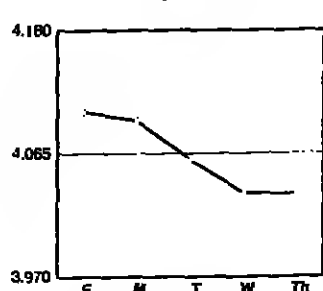
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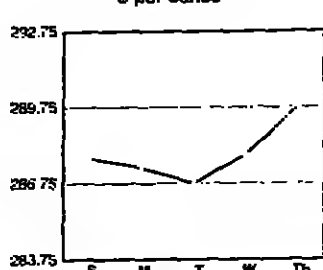
MARKETS

in brief

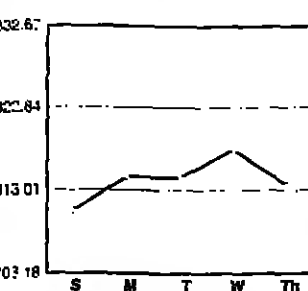
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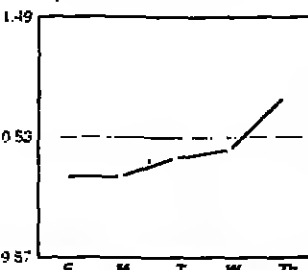
GOLD



MAOF INDEX



OIL



BITS & BYTES

By NICKY BLACKBURN

ECI opens Tokyo subsidiary

Deregulation in the Japanese telecommunications sector has prompted ECI Telecom to open a fully-owned subsidiary in Tokyo, called ECI Telecom Japan, it was announced this week.

"With the deregulation of the Japanese telecommunications market there has been increased interest in our solutions and we expect that our activities will grow dramatically in this country," said David Rubner, president and CEO of ECI Telecom.

Petah-Tikva based ECI Telecom, which specializes in digital telecommunications and data transmission systems, has opened new offices in Australia, Mexico, and Brazil in recent months.

Radguard: A hot name for '98

Radguard, a leading vendor of secure virtual private network (VPN) solutions, has been named one of the hot start-ups of 1998 by the magazine *Global Tech Ventures*.

The Miller Freeman publication selected Tel Aviv-based Radguard following a review of companies it had covered during the year.

It chose the company for its ability to "cut a deal almost every month with overseas distributors, international venture capitalists, and leading multinational IT companies."

In the last year both the Japan Associated Finance Company and Intel Corporation have invested in the company. In addition, Radguard has built up an impressive international base that includes leading financial institutions and multinationals.

"The nature of secure virtual private networking, both as a market and technology, is such that an international strategy is necessary for company growth, product marketing, and customer support," said Eli Herscovitz, Radguard's president and CEO. "Our global approach has helped us achieve a leadership position in the VPN marketplace."

Emulek releases Rapid Plus 5.0 beta version

Software solutions specialist Emulek is to release the beta version of its virtual simulation-based product development tool, Rapid Plus 5.0, to selected customers.

The new release enhances the tool's capabilities by including ActiveX support and multi-lingual user interfaces. The final version should be released this spring.

The Rapid Plus suite of products is used in the electronics, automotive, telecommunications, and aerospace industries by companies such as General Electric, Motorola, Nokia, and BMW.

The Jerusalem-based company said that the addition of ActiveX support allows the incorporation of any ActiveX controller on an individual system as an object in a particular Rapid application, thereby increasing the number of objects a Rapid user can use. It also expands the range of design, development, and support projects that Rapid Plus 5.0 can undertake.

"A successful development of Rapid for e-commerce would allow customers to actually use a virtual working model of a product before ordering it over the Internet, without having to leave home or office," said Marc Belzberg, chairman of Emulek.

Swedes choose MIND CTI system

A Swedish company has chosen IP telephony billing provider, MIND CTI, as the billing and customer care system for its IP services, PC-to-phone, and web-based call center, it was announced this week.

TeliaLight AB chose the MIND-iPhoneX system developed by the Yotke' am company because, it said, the companies share the same vision of the future.

"The flexible handling of customer information is one of the key areas for a successful VoIP service," said Bjorn L. Norrman, president of TeliaLight. "MIND has the experience and commitment to deliver the solutions we require now and will require in the future."

Magal acquires 40% of security start-up

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Leading security specialist, Magal Security Systems, has acquired 40 percent of an Israeli start-up, Snifex, with an option to purchase another 15 percent before the end of 1999.

The \$240,000 deal, which was announced Wednesday, brings into Magal's stable of security products a unique technology which detects trace amounts of drugs or explosives without direct contact with the object.

Snifex, which was set up three years ago with the support of the Industry Ministry's Chief Scientist, has developed a system which can detect traces of explosives or drugs on a person, or in their bags, as they pass through a short tunnel.

The system, which resembles metal detection procedures now used in airports, can be used in

train stations, airports, embassies, government offices and prisons. It should be at prototype stage by the end of 1999.

Raya Asher, CFO at Magal, said the purchase of Snifex adds a complementary product to Magal's existing product line. The company manufactures computerized security systems which automatically detect intruders, and also manufactures systems that detect explosive devices in baggage. It sells to more than 60 countries around the world.

"We already have good relationships with security personnel at prisons, airports, and government offices and believe they will want a system that can detect drugs or explosives," she said.

In addition, she added: "The price was good. It was not a big investment to risk and we saw the potential." The two founders of Snifex hold the rest of the shares.

PM: Inflation target to be raised

By JESSICA STEINBERG

The official inflation target for 1999 will soon be raised from its recently determined level of 4 percent to a range of 5-6 percent, Prime Minister and Acting Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday told the annual meeting of the Association of Electronics Industries.

The Bank of Israel would not comment on the statement.

"We need to let the market know where we are going," said Netanyahu, while adding such a change should not be overdone in its dosage. A 1-2 percentage point "is not that significant," he said.

Netanyahu added that in recent conversations with him both US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair said that beyond a certain price level, reducing an inflation rate that already is with-

in single-digit levels becomes imprudent. Netanyahu's statement was scolded by economists while welcomed by the Manufacturers' Association which traditionally seeks an export-friendly weaker shekel.

Israel Discount Bank chief economist Shaul Katznelson said the 1999 target rate of inflation shouldn't exceed 4.5%.

Raising the target would be counterproductive, since it would affect the public's inflationary expectations, possibly push down interest rates, consequently accelerate spending, and subsequently pressure prices and wages.

The government "gains absolutely nothing" by pushing the inflation target up, according to economist Jonathan Katz, head of the macroeconomic department at the Capital Asset Management consultancy.

November's consumer price index (CPI)

increased by a lower-than-expected 1.3% and economists are forecasting a low CPI for the first quarter of 1999, he said. "Why shoot from your hip when there's a good chance that inflation is going to come down anyway," asked Katz.

The current 3-5% inflation target is fairly reasonable, given weak consumer demand, the glut in the housing market and falling commodity prices, said economists. Add the strengthening shekel to the equation and it seems clear that prices will decline again, Katz added.

The shekel gained 2% against the dollar over the last two days, reaching NIS 4.065 at the end of yesterday's official trading.

Meanwhile, Yehoshua Abramowitz, head of economic department at the Manufacturers' Association, praised the prime minister's announcement, since it would, he believes, make monetary policy

conform with, rather than resist, market trends. "We want fiscal and monetary policy to be directed first and foremost toward economic growth and reasonable prices," he told Israel Radio.

Katz and Katznelson, however, said that raising the target would accomplish little besides antagonizing the central bank, which won't allow a higher target to affect its monetary policy.

The Bank of Israel left the key interest rate unchanged at 13.5 percent for January, keeping rates at a 17-month high.

"You have to look at his audience," said Katz, referring to the Manufacturers' Association. "They're always pushing for lower interest rates."

Inflation rose 8.2% over the last 12 months, but a final figure for '98's inflation rate has yet to be officially released by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

MCI WorldCom may bid \$54b. for AirTouch

By COLLEEN MCELROY

JACKSON, Mississippi (Bloomberg) — MCI WorldCom Inc. may enter the bidding for AirTouch Communications Inc., a move that could drive up the price for the US's largest wireless company, people familiar with the companies said.

MCI WorldCom, the No. 2 US long-distance company, has contacted AirTouch to express its interest, though it hasn't made an offer, the people said. Vodafone Group Plc, the UK's largest cellular phone company, has offered to buy AirTouch for about \$54 billion, or \$90 a share, while Bell Atlantic Corp., the largest US local phone company, has bid about \$43b., people familiar with their plans said.

AirTouch would give MCI WorldCom 16.1 million wireless customers in the US and Europe, filling a hole in its global package of telecommunications and Internet services. Any bid from MCI WorldCom would be an about-face for CEO Bernard Ebbers, who's long said that WorldCom's primary focus is on business customers who aren't demanding wireless services.

"Getting into wireless would take away from management's focus," said Alan Hoffman, senior portfolio manager at Value Line Asset Management, which owns 223,400 MCI WorldCom shares. "I would like to see them concentrate" on the fixed-line business.

Last month, MCI WorldCom chairman Bert Roberts told Bloomberg News the company could buy a cellular phone service provider "in the next several years."

Officials of AirTouch and MCI WorldCom declined to comment on the status of any discussions. A purchase of AirTouch would rank among the 10 largest mergers and acquisitions ever. Any buyer also would assume AirTouch's \$2.8b. in long-term debt.

A bid from MCI WorldCom would mark the second time that Ebbers has entered a bidding war for a covered telecommunications company. WorldCom bought MCI Communications Corp. in September for \$47b., outbidding British Telecommunications Plc and No. 3 US local phone company GTE Corp.

An AirTouch acquisition could cut into MCI WorldCom's future earnings — something that Ebbers



AirTouch CEO Sam Ginn, shown in an undated handout photo, entered wireless telecom in 1994, when he left local phone company Pacific Telesis Group. Now his company is the focus of a multi-billion-dollar bidding war.

has promised he'd avoid, analysts and investors said.

AirTouch and Vodafone officials, including finance director Ken Hydon, are scheduled to meet today in their first face-to-face meeting since Vodafone's offer on Tuesday, said Alan Harper, Vodafone's group commercial director. Vodafone CEO Chris Gent is in New Zealand and will not attend, Harper said.

Vodafone spokesman Mike Caldwell wouldn't say whether the company would raise its bid if MCI WorldCom or another company makes a higher offer. If Vodafone deemed a higher price would place too much of a burden on earnings, it would bow out of the running, he said.

"Everything has its price and we have to make sure it's good for our shareholders," Caldwell said.

AirTouch's shares trade at about 16 times cash flow, compared with a ratio of 27 times cash flow for Vodafone's shares, said Alan Lyons, an analyst at ABN Amro.

Because that makes AirTouch comparatively cheap compared to the UK company, Vodafone can afford to pay a price for AirTouch that may cause other bidders to shy away, Lyons said.

Bell Atlantic is unlikely to increase its bid because it would slash too deeply into future earnings, analysts and investors said. Lyons named Bell South Corp. as another company that may be interested in AirTouch.

Investors have been bidding up many telecommunications shares. As of yesterday's close, Bell Atlantic was trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 30.62, while AirTouch was trading at a P/E of 75.35.

AirTouch shares rose 1 7/8 to 81 3/4, which is 80 times its estimated earnings. MCI WorldCom fell 4 1/2 to 73 3/8, or 88 times its earnings estimates. Bell Atlantic rose 13/16 to 56 11/16, or 21 times estimates.

Vodafone's shares fell 26 pence, or 2.4 percent, to 1,063, or 60

Potash Corp. gives up ICL directorship bid

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan, Canada, agreed yesterday to give up its right to appoint a director to the board of Israel Chemicals, thus eliminating speculation that the mineral manufacturer intends to bid for control in Israel's largest chemicals manufacturer.

At a shareholders meeting yesterday, Potash representative Yehuda Ravet supported a change in the company's regulation allowing the Israel Corp., which holds a controlling interest in Israel Chemicals, to appoint all directors.

Under the previous regulation, a remnant of the time the company was state owned, each shareholder holding more than 7 percent stake in the company had the right to appoint a director.

Market sources were speculating that Potash, which acquired 9% of Israel Chemicals in a public offering last month, would try to

appoint a director allowing it to get a foothold in its rival's board of directors.

The decision to change the company's regulation won the approval of 82% of shareholders.

In the meeting Ravet said that Potash believes in the potential and future of Israel Chemicals. Sources close to the deal said that the Canadian company wishes to cooperate with Israel Chemicals on the global market. They added that because of the Christmas holiday period no actual steps were taken so far to discuss the possible ways of cooperating.

The sources added that Potash shows much interest in Israel Chemicals and that it does not rule out increasing its stake in the future. If the company decides, however, to increase its stake to more than 14% it needs to receive the government's approval.

In a statement, Yossi Rosen, president and CEO of the Israel

Chemicals, said he was satisfied with the decision of Potash and that the company intends to cooperate with the Canadian group.

Potash, which is the world largest potash company, purchased its holdings in Israel Chemicals in December for \$91.3 million, as part of a public offering on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in which the government raised NIS 1.21 billion from the sales of a 29% stake.

The Israel Corp., which was surprised by Potash's move, has also purchased shares in the flotation, raising its holding to 52% allowing it to hold full control over the company.

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NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES


OTHER MARKET INDEXES

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US COMMODITIES

Gold (Feb) 232.4
Silver (Mar) 5.24

Spot market listings are from approximately 29:30 Israel time. All others are closing prices.

Foreign financial data courtesy of
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Tel Aviv

Super-Sol fell 2.28 percent to NIS 10.28. Israel's largest supermarket chain is sensitive to swings in the inflation rate and dropped after Netanyahu announced his intention to increase the government's target for 1999.

Israel Chemicals fell 2.6 percent to NIS 4.12. The maker of chemical fertilizers fell as its shareholders voted to change the company's charter from that of a state-owned company to a publicly held company. The Israeli government sold a 28.6 percent stake in Israel Chemicals last month. Dead Sea Bromine a subsidiary of Israel Chemicals fell 4.46 percent to NIS 25.70.

D
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Europe

DaimlerChrysler AG, Nestle AG, Societe Generale SA and other big European companies fell, giving up gains from earlier this week. They soared as investors put to work the money they held onto in December, waiting for the European Union to introduce its single currency, the euro.

The Bloomberg Europe 500 Index fell 1.95 points, or 0.9 percent, to 211.10, after reaching a five-month high Wednesday. The Amsterdam Exchanges Index fell the most among benchmark indexes in Europe's largest markets. Trading was suspended

Macf 317.11 ▼ 1.77%
Dow Jones 9537.76 ▼ 0.08%
FTSE 6101.2 ▼ 0.77%
Nikkei 13536.56 ▲ 9.51%

for 15 minutes when the decline reached the 5 percent daily limit imposed by the Amsterdam Stock Exchange. Milan's MIB 30 Index rose the most, climbing 1.3 percent as it caught up with the S&P 500, which had fallen 1.2 percent as it edged back into the red. Wines for a holiday Markets in London, Sweden, Austria, and Finland were closed as well. DaimlerChrysler pulled out of Germany's DAX Xetra lower after leading the gains by European stocks yesterday, when it pulled the German index to a record closing high and the Europe 500 to a five-month high. Europe's biggest industrial company dropped 1.96 euros to 90.60, a 2 percent loss that erased part of its 6.60 percent gain Wednesday.

Asian stocks rose as developers in Singapore and Hong Kong gained on expectations lower interest rates will pare their borrowing costs.

Singapore's Straits Times Index rose 52.91, or 3.6 percent.

CURRENCIES

Dollar 4.0650 no change
Basket 4.4567 ▼ 0.2%
Euro 4.7428 ▼ 0.8%
Sterling 6.7087 ▼ 0.3%

situation is weighing on the dollar," said David Brickman, an economist at PajoeWebber International. "This is uncharted territory."

Following the yen's recent appreciation, a host of Japanese officials have suggested the government is ready to halt its gains by selling currency. Vice Finance Minister Koji Tsuami yesterday said wild swings in currency exchange rates must be avoided, though he didn't say how this might be achieved.

A stronger yen hurts the Japanese economy since it makes exports more expensive on world markets and cuts into the profits of exporters when they convert overseas earnings.

The rising yen is "an awful New Year's gift," said Kazushige Murakami, foreign exchange manager at Toshiba Corp., Japan's largest maker of notebook computers. "Our profit will be hurt, the

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi started a week of talks yesterday with leaders of France, Italy, and Germany in a bid to promote greater currency stability by limiting fluctuations between the yen, dollar, and euro.

"In the long term, the strong yen isn't in the interests of the Japanese economy," said Paul Reard, of Perpetual Plc. He added that investors are more likely to sell the dollar against the yen than against the euro as they become accustomed to Europe's new currency.

"People aren't quite up and running on the euro," he said.

(Bloomberg)

Precious Metals

Palladium for immediate delivery dropped as much as \$9.50, or 2.9 percent, to \$315.50 an ounce in London as users balked at prices near their highest level since July and decided to draw on stockpiles rather than buying metal. Makers of catalytic converters and mobile phones have been building palladium inventories for months in anticipation of a halt to Russian shipments, which is normally caused by bureaucratic delays in January.


Silver for immediate delivery rose as much as 14 cents, or 2.7 percent, to \$5.315 an ounce as demand in India, the No.2 consumer, rose after the government raised import duties on gold earlier this week. The tax increase is causing some locals to buy silver instead of gold, traders said. The move, which was made to stem the flow of currency from India, also closes the possibility of a devaluation of the rupee, the local currency.

By buying dollar-denominated precious

metals now, local investors would protect the value of their assets from declining with the currency, and local jewelers would save money by avoiding paying a higher price in rupees.

Gold for immediate delivery rose as much as \$1.45, or 0.5 percent, to \$289.30 an ounce as investors started a store of value in case a worsening Brazilian economy slows US economic growth at a time when a presidential impeachment trial could weaken political leadership in the world's largest economy. Some investors buy gold as a haven in times of political and economic turmoil.

Brent crude oil futures for February delivery were little changed, rising as much as 7 cents to \$11.53 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange, on expectations that supplies of crude oil and heating oil will be sufficient to meet demand from US consumers facing arctic weather in



Gold 1289.75 @ 1.41%
Crude Oil 51.45 @ 1.03%
CRB 69.69 @ 2.20%

parts of the Midwest and Northeast. The US Midwest has been struck by storms that covered Chicago in its second largest snowfall ever and sent temperatures plunging below 0 degrees Fahrenheit in parts of the Midwest.

Cocoa for March delivery jumped 9 pounds to 920 pounds (\$1.518) a metric ton on the London International Financial

Decline as do

BONDS

An illustration showing two hands, one from the left and one from the right, exchanging a document that resembles a bond certificate. The hand on the left is wearing a dark suit sleeve, and the hand on the right is wearing a sleeve with stars, possibly representing the U.S. Treasury. The document has some text and a seal on it.

Future and Options Exchange on concern exporters in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest grower, are delaying shipments because of concern over prices near their lowest in almost two years. Caistab, the state-run marketing board, said 10 percent of export contracts for delivery by December 31 were unmet because of a lack of credit. Local traders estimate that as much as 25 percent of cocoa export contracts went into default. UK cocoa processors said they ground 9 percent more cocoa beans during the fourth quarter than in the third quarter, reflecting rising seasonal demand for chocolate. Still, grindings were down about 4 percent on a year earlier, said the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate, and Confectionery Alliance.

Stockpiles of copper in London Metal Exchange warehouses exceeded 600,000 metric tons for the first time in five years, signaling that supply is outstripping demand from fabricators such as cable and pipe manufacturers. Production of copper from the world's mines increased 4.5 percent in October.

while consumption fell 0.3 percent, the International Coffee Study Group said Wednesday. The LMBC said yesterday in its daily report that inventories rose 775 tons to 600,300 tons. Copper for delivery "three months forward," the benchmark, futures contract, was little changed at \$1,450 a ton. Prices touched a 1 1/2-year low Wednesday at \$1,435 a ton.

Coffee for March delivery was little changed at \$1.76 a pound, up 0.1 cent, on the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange. Increased exports, particularly from Latin America, are boosting available bean supplies. Global coffee exports rose 1.5 percent to 5.71 million bags, each weighing 132 pounds, during November, compared with the same month a year earlier, according to the International Coffee Organization. The bulk of harvesting has been completed in Mexico and Central America after weather-related delays, and beans from the new crops are being exported, swelling supplies at a time when demand from roasters is ebbing.

US bonds fell for the fourth time in five sessions as the dollar slid against the Japanese yen, diminishing the appeal of Treasury securities for overseas investors.

"The dollar has shown tremendous weakness," burling bonds, said Andrew Brenner, a director at Fimat USA, Inc.

The 30-year bond fell 22/32, or \$6.88 per \$1,000 bond, to 100 19/32. Its yield rose 5 basis points to 5.21 percent. Yields on two-year notes, the most actively trad-

The dollar fell as low as 110.01 yen, a 27-month low, from 112.86 late Wednesday in New York. It's down 4.5% against the yen in the past two weeks. A weaker dollar makes US debt less attractive to foreign investors because a bond's proceeds are reduced when converted into other currencies.

Bonds temporarily narrowed losses after the Bank of England

The appeal of Treasuries. The UK central bank reduced the benchmark securities repurchase rate by a quarter point to 6%, the fourth cut in as many months, to boost growth.

"Lower rates there make our rates look a little better," said Steve Wood, an economist at NationsBank. Montgomery Securities LLC in San Francisco.

Government economic reports on unemployment claims and factory orders had little effect on

Claims for unemployment insurance fell 22,000 last week to 350,000—a smaller decline than forecast by analysts in a Bloomberg News survey. Jobless claims fluctuated in recent weeks because of seasonal employment, reduced filing days, and other circumstances surrounding the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Factory orders rose 0.6% in the month with forecasts.

هكذا من الأصل

The Jerusalem Post Friday, January 8, 1999

NEWSinFOCUS

13

Losers' hero

Avigdor Lieberman's new party seems to be reaching out to those who view themselves as victimized, insulted, kept down. Larry Derfner reports

In one of the many real-estate offices on Bat Yam's Rothschild Street, where the notices are in Russian and Hebrew, agent Alex Pashayev tried to express his thoughts about Avigdor "Yvet" Lieberman.

Even though Pashayev, 38, said he doesn't vote and won't vote for anyone because "they're all crooks," he allowed that Lieberman "is closer to my way of thinking than [Natan] Sharansky is."

At the desk behind Pashayev's, the boss, Haim Sami, 56, had a lot to say about the new wind in Russian immigrant politics.

"We need dominant men like him, not cowards, in the Knesset," As for Lieberman's charge that Israel is a "police state" that favors the "elite" over the "outsiders," Sami, a Likudnik, gave his full endorsement.

"The system is rigged in favor of those who have it good, and against the common man," he said, adding a final twist, "It wouldn't hurt to shut the media up, either."

Sami, incidentally, isn't a Russian immigrant like Pashayev; he was born in Iraq and came here as a child in the '50s.

Lieberman, with his menacing talk of leftist media oligarchies and police states and corrupt judges and prosecutors, seems to be speaking to quite a few Israelis, not just Russians. He's declared himself the champion of a whole range of the discontented: "new immigrants, residents of development towns, people of Judea and Samaria, Habad, the haredim."

Lieberman, formerly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-hand man and still a thoroughly loyal ally, didn't mince words in his news conference Sunday where he announced the formation of a new party, Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel is Our Home).

"When I say we have turned into a police state, I mean it. When I say I haven't one iota of faith in

the justice system and law enforcement in Israel, I mean it," he said.

"Horror show" was how many politicians and media commentators described the news conference, and "fascist" and "Israeli Zhirinovsky" were how they described Lieberman.

"Lieberman's party preaches war. This is poison of the [antisemitic Russian fascist Vladimir] Zhirinovsky strain. One day Lieberman's grandchildren will ask forgiveness for Grandfather Yvet's deeds - but by then it will be too late," wrote one of Israel's most prominent columnists, Nahum Barnea, in *Yediot Ahronot*. MK Michael Eitan, Lieberman's

Lieberman did not reply to *The Jerusalem Post's* requests for an interview.

ISRAEL'S influential Russian-language media, however, was on the whole "cautious" in its reactions to Lieberman's entry into the election campaign and to the outraged responses it drew, said Dima Ladizhensky, former editor of *Novosti*, Israel's second-largest Russian-language newspaper, after *Vespr*. "There was pretty much of a balance between pro and con," he said.

Max Lurie, a popular columnist in *Vespr*, exhibited this caution and balance.

Lieberman would likely tie with Natan Sharansky, head of Yisrael Ba'aliya and minister of trade and industry, for the Russian vote, Lurie wrote.

"On the Russian street, [Lieberman] is still draped in the glory of the holy martyr who was victimized at the hands of the Israeli establishment," wrote Lurie. He predicted that Yisrael Beiteinu would pull votes from Russians who think Sharansky should spend more time on their bread-and-butter concerns and less time on international diplomacy.

The Russian immigrant vote accounts potentially for nearly 20 Knesset seats, and Yisrael Ba'aliya got seven of them in the 1996 election. Ladizhensky said Lieberman's entry into the race would take some votes away from Sharansky and some from the Likud and right-wing parties like Moledet.

He estimated that Yisrael Ba'aliya would lose a Knesset seat or two, and that Yisrael Beiteinu would win three or four.

"Lieberman appeals to Russian immigrants who feel put down, disappointed, who don't believe in Israel, who feel that moving to Israel was the most bitter mistake of their lives. These are the people who didn't succeed in Israel - not because they were discriminated against, but because they didn't help themselves, and Lieberman plays on this despair," said Ladizhensky, likening Lieberman to the Sephardi "Black Panthers" of the 1970s.

On the other hand, Ladizhensky maintained, "People who support Sharansky believe in integration, even in Zionism. They want to maintain their distinctive culture from home but at the same time integrate into Israeli society. In my opinion, this is the majority."

Lieberman is nobody's 'sad case'

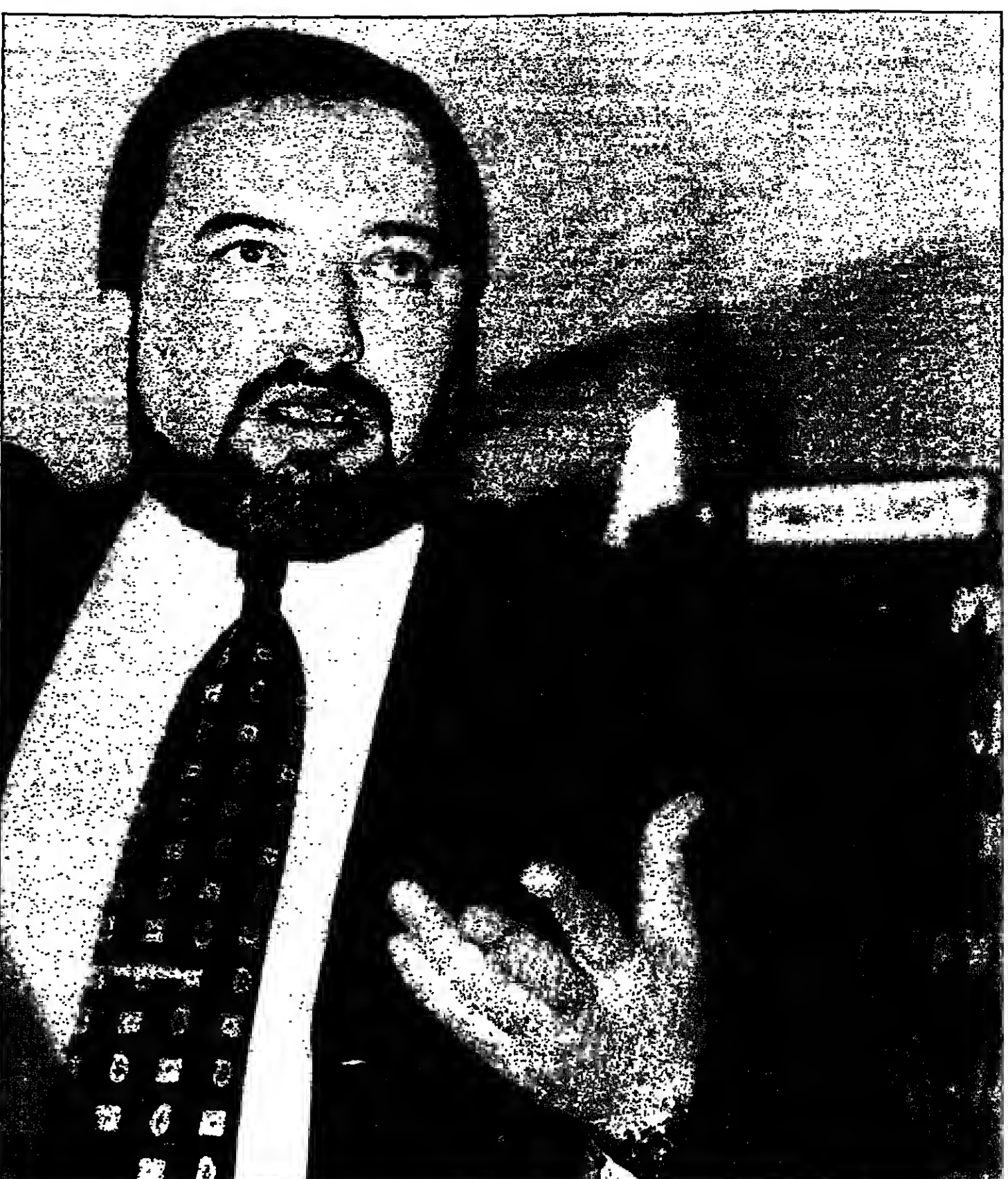
- new immigrant from Ukraine

strongest detractor in the Likud, said on Israel TV: "This man is dangerous. What he's offering is a dictatorship... like there is in Russia, where the mafia rules."

Eitan charged that Lieberman, who has become a wealthy businessman since resigning as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office a year ago, has surrounded himself "with people who are close to the Russian Mafia, people whom the police warned Netanyahu not to get close to."

About the only public figure who expressed support for Lieberman was Itamar Ben-Gvir, a young Kach leader and outspoken admirer of Yigal Amir, Yitzhak Rabin's assassin.

"Lieberman is 100% right about the state prosecutor's office, which is run by a leftist judge Ben-Gvir," was quoted as saying.



With his menacing talk of leftist media oligarchies, police state and corrupt judges and prosecutors, Lieberman doesn't just speak to Russians. (Yael Somch/Israel Sun)



'Vespr' columnist Max Lurie predicts Lieberman will pull votes from Russians who think Natan Sharansky (above) should spend more time on their bread-and-butter concerns and less on international diplomacy.

his boss, added that Lieberman was a "bulldozer who can do more for the immigrants than Sharansky did."

Noting that Lieberman was courting Betar Jerusalem soccer idol Eli Ohana to join his list, Ladizhensky said Lieberman might have as much appeal to

Knesset seats, and that Lieberman should attract about half of them.

Ladizhensky compared Lieberman's appeal on the Russian street to that which was enjoyed by alleged Russian Mafia leader Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner), who was imprisoned last year on fraud and bribery charges. "Lerner also

had the image of a capable man being persecuted by the Israeli establishment because they were afraid to let him compete," he said.

On the all-important pages of the Russian-language press, Ladizhensky said he expected *Vespr* to lean towards Lieberman because the newspaper's editor, Edward Kuznetsov, "shares Lieberman's right-wing views, shares some history with him, and is a neighbor."

Ladizhensky added that Kuznetsov's wife, Larisa Gerstein, was elected to the Jerusalem city council with Lieberman's help, and Gerstein is now considered a possible candidate on Yisrael Beiteinu's Knesset list. *Novosti*, he said, leaned more inward Sharansky.

Number 2 on Lieberman's list, Senya Katznelson, recently swamped Yisrael Ba'aliya in the

Ashdod municipal elections. Katznelson's list was also named Yisrael Beiteinu, also organized by Lieberman, and was set up to draw votes away from Yisrael Ba'aliya and deliver them to Likud mayor Zvi Zilker.

Consensus opinion is that Yisrael Beiteinu is a satellite party for Netanyahu, even though the prime minister denies it.

established market on Rothschild Street, an immigrant from Tashkent who didn't want to be identified said she didn't know who Lieberman was except that he was on the TV and radio. She knows who Sharansky is, but doesn't trust him because she doesn't want to see any Russians in positions of power in Israel.

"I had it hard and the people who helped me were Israelis, not immigrants," said the 44-year-old woman. Asked about Lieberman's charges - that Israel is a police state, that the political and legal system, from the party branches to the Supreme Court, offer justice and democracy only to the aristocrats - she made a face of disapproval.

"It's not true," she said. "In every country there're difficulties, there's bureaucracy, even in the United States. But as far as the system in Israel goes, there's no difference between the elite and the common man, between North Tel Aviv and Bat Yam."

"Everybody gets the same treatment. It just depends on how hard you try."

Lieberman, who is courting Betar Jerusalem soccer idol Eli Ohana for his list, might appeal to right-wing Sephardim

- former editor of 'Novosti'

right-wing Sephardim as to Russians. "He's closer to the world of the Likud central committee than to the world of immigrants," Ladizhensky said.

YISRAEL Ba'aliya MK Roman Bronfman said his party isn't worried by Lieberman's challenge.

"Yisrael Ba'aliya has hardcore support among 30 to 40 percent of immigrants. Lieberman isn't going after our voters. But I'm sure he will find his niche among the 60% of immigrants who vote for the other parties."

Asked to describe Lieberman's audience among Russians, an observer of the community who did not want to be identified replied, "The lowest of them. Those who think of themselves as being persecuted, insulted, kept down." The observer said these voters account for two to four

had the image of a capable man being persecuted by the Israeli establishment because they were afraid to let him compete," he said.

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Number 2 on Lieberman's list, Senya Katznelson, recently swamped Yisrael Ba'aliya in the

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Short-lived euphoria: The first and last Likud primaries of March 1996.

(Israel Sun)

From boon to bane

They took the country by storm in 1992, and were heralded as a badly needed breath of democratic fresh air – the primaries.

No longer were the back-slapping, chain-smoking, heavy-set men tilting back on plastic chairs in the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds going to determine the major parties' Knesset slates. The days of the "arranging committees" and the convoluted system of ranking future MKs by septets and quintets were over.

From now on the party faithful would go to the ballot booth and pick the candidates themselves, without 3,000 central committee intermediaries. Primaries – just like in the movies and all.

The romance was short-lived. Just seven years after Labor instituted the system that was credited with reinvigorating the party and going a long way toward bringing it victory in 1992, the party is currently in the throes of a debate over whether to scrap the whole thing.

If it does, three of the party's marquee names, Uzi Baram, Haggai Merom and Haim Ramon, have threatened to leave Labor's ranks (though they may very well leave anyway over other matters).

"I'm not sure the primaries will last here for many years," says Baram.

"But right now, I don't see a better alternative."

"With today's weaker parties there is no room for strong central committees. But it is something we have been too weakened."

BARAM says it is natural that party heads, both Binyamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak, want to have more control over who will be in their factions. But it is something he is not willing to be a part of.

While Labor has yet to make a

Where have all the primaries gone? Heralded first as a political panacea, Likud and Meretz soon dropped them – and Labor may be next.

Herb Keinson looks at Israel's electoral impulsiveness

final decision on whether it will hold primaries this year, the Likud – which was so impressed by Labor's use of the system in 1992 that it adopted the idea in 1996 – jettisoned it in 1997, opting to go back to the central-committee method of choosing the Knesset candidates.

The party leader, however, will still be selected in a primary.

Meretz, the other major party that went to a primary system in 1996, also decided to do away with the system.

"We are not going to run primaries again," says Moshe Raz, the director-general of Peace Now, who is expected to be in one of Meretz's top six Knesset slates.

"There are two main reasons why we dropped the primaries," he says. "The first is that this time, things are moving much too quickly, and it was decided that we wouldn't waste time and money on it."

"The second reason is that people are tired of the system: they don't think it worked. It created a situation where Meretz's list was the same in 1996 as in 1992 – a situation where people who are not that involved in the party can have a tremendous influence on who will be on the list."

Much has been, and can be, argued both for and against the

merits of the primary system. It favors the wealthy, the telegenic, the well-connected and those with a penchant for flair. But it also flings the party doors wide open.

Thirty-eight-year-old Louis Lipsky is a case in point.

Lipsky, a Likud activist from Jerusalem, wants to get into the Knesset. He ran in the primaries in 1996, and finished 77th out of some 200 candidates. This time he hoped to improve his showing and slowly work his way into a realistic slot. The end of the primaries has ended that hope.

"Any chances of my getting in through the central committee are slim," he admits. "If there was a primary, I'd have a much better chance," he says. "I could make my case to 15,000 people regionally, or 250,000 if I went on the national track. Then they would decide whether I'm the right guy. I wouldn't have to run my backs to the wall."

"If I go to 3,000 [central committee] people, who are already grouped in loyalty groups, they may say, 'Well, Louis is talking nice, but the question is whether he is doing something Yitzhak can't do, and Yitzhak has been part of our group for 10 years. We kind of owe him.'"

REGARDLESS of the arguments

for and against the primaries, one of the most striking aspects is the rapidity with which this mechanism was embraced one day, and discarded so unceremoniously the next.

What does the tendency to try on, then easily cast off, serious governmental mechanisms like primaries or direct election of the prime minister say about the country?

"People see something that works in America and fall in love with it," says Asher Cohen, who teaches Israeli politics at Bar-Ilan University.

"They don't look carefully to see if it is suitable for the system of government here. They don't study the long-term significance."

One of the most striking aspects is the rapidity with which the mechanism was embraced one day, and discarded the next

"They see it, they like it, they implement it. And when it doesn't turn out so well, they say, 'Well, let's think – maybe this isn't for us after all.'"

In Israel's overall headlong rush toward Americanization, Cohen says, political leaders adopted the primaries without questioning whether it could work in a parliamentary system, where faction discipline is of the utmost importance in retaining a coalition.

"The primaries by nature go against this discipline," Cohen says.



The last frontier: Preparations for Labor's 1996 primaries. The party is the only one that hasn't dumped the system – yet.

(Israel Sun)

"Inevitably, a Knesset of individuals is created" because the MK is beholden to the sector that elected him, out to the party operatives who appointed him.

Cohen argues that in Israel, the introduction of major institutional changes like the primaries system is not preceded by enough public debate and forethought.

"There was a committee that analyzed the pros and cons of primaries," he says, "but there wasn't enough public discussion. The same thing is going on now with the move to repeal direct election of the prime minister."

"Direct election looked good once. It doesn't look good now, so people are saying we should go back to the way it used to be." This restlessness, this impulsiveness, this lack of stick-to-itiveness, has its roots in the Palmach ethos, Cohen believes.

"One of the highest values then was *chutzpa* [the ability to improvise]: If [you think it] works – do it, improvise. Let's try something new, and see how it goes. If it doesn't work, we can discard it."

HAIFA University political science professor Yael Yishai agrees that there exists the tendency to adopt different political tools without the necessary forethought and consideration, after which they are too speedily abandoned.

"It's as if we waited 2,000 years for a state, and now everything has to be done real quickly," she says sarcastically. "There's no time to wait things out."

Another element that could explain the meteoric rise and fall of the primaries, Yishai says, is the fierce competition between the parties. This creates pressure to try new methods and process that, if they do not appear to fulfill all previous expectations, can unceremoniously be dumped for something else.

Haifa University philosophy professor Aharon Ben-Ze'ev, who has just completed a study on the role of emotions in decision-making, attributes this bent for impulsively jumping from one system to the next to the country's furious pace of events.

"Because of the dynamic of events here," he says, "because of the great changes, the outlook tends only to be short-term, to the next elections. After that, God only knows."

"Emotional intelligence," Ben-Ze'ev muses, "is a combination of reason and emotion. But what we too often see here is the emotional component. This is because the events themselves are often very emotional, and also because there is always great change, and change stirs emotion."

"Reason can contemplate the

long term; emotion deals with the short term."

The key to a healthy polity lies in keeping a proportion between the two components, the professor says. Embracing primaries

"It's as if we waited 2,000 years for a state, and now everything has to be done real quickly. There's no time to wait things out"

– Professor Yael Yishai

for one election and discarding them the next is hardly an indication of this Aristotelian virtue of proportion.

"Clearly it is good to be able to change, not to be stuck in one course of action," Ben-Ze'ev says. "But you have to give changes some chance to prove their effectiveness. Drastic change is not healthy."

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Barak rides into town

Ehud Barak opened his Carville-inspired election campaign this week, heading north to repeat over and over the simple messages he hopes will give Binyamin Netanyahu a run for his money. Danna Harman accompanied him



Re-educating the electorate: Barak gets down to these youngsters' level in a Metulla kindergarten.

Israel is witnessing the dawn of a new elections era. Elsewhere in the West, the ubiquitous sound bite, the professional pollsters, the slick advisers, the advance teams, the "daily message," and the candidate's official hairdresser are old hat. These are the strategies and tactics without which US President Bill Clinton or British Prime Minister Tony Blair could not have been elected.

But here in Israel, where everything arrives a few years late, we are joining the Nineties election game at the very end of the decade. It was our American-educated prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, and his spinmaster, Arthur Finkelshten, who set the wheels in motion. Now, James Carville and Stan Greenberg, the masterminds behind the Clinton and Blair campaigns, have come to help Labor leader Ehud Barak give the prime minister a run for his money.

On Sunday morning at 4 sharp, Barak's team got the campaign going, driving up north in a convoy of minivans filled with advisers, assistants, and camera crews. They were going to talk to Russian immigrants in Karmel and Ethiopian newcomers in Hatztot Yasaf, a special-education class in Metulla, a leaflet-distributing center in Kiryat Shmona, and through them, to the whole country.

Seated between the Lego sets, the shiny computers and the ragged teddy bears in a nursery classroom in Moshav Zarit, on the northern border, Barak put some youngsters on his lap and discussed early education, turning periodically to the TV cameras to repeat a point.

Later in the day, nodding understandingly, he spoke about health issues with aged patients lying in beds crammed into a Nahariya hospital corridor. He then stopped for a radio interview by the water coolers, hammering out the same themes.

Everywhere he went, he repeated the same simple messages over and over: He, as prime minister, will promote national unity, concentrate on the general welfare, and not give in to the demands of the extremists. In short, he will stand up, above all, for the real needs of the people.

Barak hopes to do in 1999 what both Clinton and the Blair campaigns did in recent years — take the country by storm.

Those earlier campaigns generated a sense that change was in the air — a feeling of energy, of freshness, of togetherness, even a little bit of glamour.

They also introduced what could be called simplistic clarity.

In both the Blair and Clinton campaigns, the winning candidates made it easy, repeating populist social and economic slogans over and over ("It's the economy, stupid") — bringing home the chosen points — health care, education, job training, welfare.

And just in case the candidates suddenly felt the need to discuss world missile proliferation or

human rights in China, they had Carville around to drag them back to the message.

A WORLD away from London and Washington, Carville's strategies came face-to-face this week with Dora, a 77-year-old Russian immigrant who lives in Kiryat Shmona.

She belongs to a weekly group that packages cotton swabs at the local hostel for the elderly. Both her daughters have gone to Canada after failing to find jobs in Israel; she has to switch buses to travel the short distance across town to visit her friend Irma, she can't pay for the dental work she needs, she's had a Katysia fall into her living room, and she doesn't speak Hebrew.

Barak, on the first leg of his cross-country Carville-inspired campaign tour, stops in to visit her at home. He looks at her photographs, checks out the newly plastered area near the TV set where the Katysia landed, asks her questions, and gives her — and the large group of reporters crammed into her tiny flat — his perspective on the problems of the day.

"My government will be for all citizens, we will not spend our resources on the needs of a minority of extremists," Barak promised. "Hospital beds will come before settlement spending and work places before money to yeshivot. Student loans will be more important than the West Bank bypass roads to nowhere."

The agenda sounds tailor made, the cameras are rolling, and the scene looks picture-perfect — except that we are in Israel, where things are always far too complex to be perfect.

"What is actually most important to me is that no more Katysias fall down on me," says Dora. "Can you promise that?"

She adds that, in any case, she had thought the Likud was the party that "looked after the people."

Somewhere in the world, Carville must be scratching his bald head. The daily social messages, the cue cards and simple monos might work in the Holy Land — but they definitely need some tweaking.

THE story repeats itself at Hatztot Yasaf, where over 1,000 Ethiopian immigrants sit in cold caravans under posters of the *alef-bet* and want to know about job training, when the prices of basic foodstuffs will stop going up, when their relatives — the Falash Mura left in Addis Ababa — will be allowed to come to Israel, and whether they will ever find permanent housing.

Barak spends almost an hour talking to a group of 15 ulpan students, at least four of whom don't understand any Hebrew. He talks right to them, with no pretense and without a hint of condescension.

He discusses the economic failures of the present government, and offers his alternative set of priorities which will address many of the Ethiopian community's needs. "Bibi promised but did not deliver," says Barak, turning around Netanyahu's own mantra, "He did not deliver — so he will not get our vote."

It's catchy, perhaps even provable — but it doesn't sell to this group.

Liora, the director of the ulpan, notes that the majority of Hatztot Yasaf residents will end up voting Likud.

"Why? Because they are very militant," she says. "They want someone who promises to be hard-handed with the Palestinians. And they see Netanyahu as their only answer."

"In addition, Likud representatives come out here all the time, talking about equality. Labor never bothered itself."

She concedes, though, that perhaps some could be swayed. "It is clear to me that about 30 percent of this country will vote for Bibi no matter what happens," says Barak, as he leans back in one of the flag-bedecked vans after a day of touring.

"But there are another 10% who only lean toward the Likud, and are not diehards. That 10% is our real target audience, and I believe this is the right way to reach them."

POLITICAL pundits say Labor will not win this swing vote on the question of future relations with the Palestinians. Netanyahu's position on the post-Wye negotiations, they say, is very popular indeed.

For many, Netanyahu is the man who said he would continue with the peace process, and did. The leader who promised to stand tough with the Palestinians, and did.

Barak can yell himself blue in the face, they say, contending that Netanyahu has run the process into the ground, alienated the Arab countries with which we have peace, cut off those we were trying to get closer to, and wrecked relations with the U.S. He can do all this, but he will not get the swing votes.

The same goes for the questions of a withdrawal from Lebanon and talks with the Syrians. Netanyahu's positions are liked.

Barak reads the polls, talks to the people — and realizes that he will not win on a security agenda. So he states his position succinctly: He wants to move forward on the Palestinian track now; he wants a separation between the peoples in the long run; he wants eventually to withdraw in stages from Lebanon and restart the negotiations with the Syrians.

That is all he wants to say on those topics.

And if anyone is worried, the former chief of general staff would like to remind them that "no one can teach me anything about security."

SO where does he go from there? To the traditional social-democratic platform, done up in Carvillian colors.

"I believe in this campaign," says Barak. "We may not be able to tackle the big questions of Syria and Lebanon fully on such a trip, but what we can do is bring out the

personal stories in this country." The stories he means relate to the things people care about — the health, education and work issues that touch everyone.

"I want to make it clear so that, at the moment of truth, when they stand at the ballot box, they realize

that they are making a decision about their personal well-being and future."

The \$64,000 question is: Will the election strategy that worked for Clinton and Blair translate into Hebrew (or Russian, or Arabic or Amharic for that matter)?



Spinmaster James Carville ponders the \$64,000 question: Will the election strategy that worked for Clinton and Blair translate into Hebrew (or Russian, or Arabic or Amharic)? (Jon Bloom)

The possible pitfalls are many. It isn't clear, for example, that an economic and social agenda will work in a country where people base their political decisions on the big, central questions of war and peace. A country where Dora, with no money, actually cares more about dealing with the Hizbullah, and Ethiopian immigrants without jobs or homes want to know how Barak plans to deal with Palestinian infringements of the Wye accord.

Second, does an emphasis on economic and social questions work for a Labor Party in a country where those who in other places would be the traditional Labor voters are here sworn Likud supporters? Will it pan in a place where the middle- and lower-class workers see the workers' party as "paternalistic" and Ashkenazi, even as they fondly remember Polish-born lawyer Menachem Begin as "one of ours"?

There is also a possible personality problem. Will Barak, an intellectual with a shy smile, who can't seem to figure out what to do with his hands, be able to pull off the '90s sound-bite candidate stunt?

This question is particularly pertinent given that his main opponent — Netanyahu — is a natural whiz at the game, fixing his tie, reeling off crystal-clear sound bites, and playing to the camera as if he had been doing it since the day he was born.

Even political novice Amnon Lipkin-Shahak seems to have a more natural flair for the salesman's role.

MEANWHILE, Barak and his team are confident.

Barak estimates that he met about 300 people on his first one-and-a-half day campaign tour. Each person he chatted with presumably told his family and friends about it, and the local papers and radio stations gave it coverage — so Barak calculates that he and his message reached a majority of the residents of the towns he visited.

In a two-week intensive tour, he adds, he can reach out to most of the country.

At midnight, after the first day of the campaign trip has ended, the staff sits around together bleary eyed in guest house at Zarit to discuss the next day.

Barak meanders in a training suits to get a yogurt and joins the group, talking into the night about the future when they will be in power. "Don't say if," they conclude, "say when."

There is a buzz about the campaign. The staffers are young and seem energetic, ambitious and confident. They know who they are, and what they want to say — and now, with the help of the world class spinmasters, they are figuring out how to say it.

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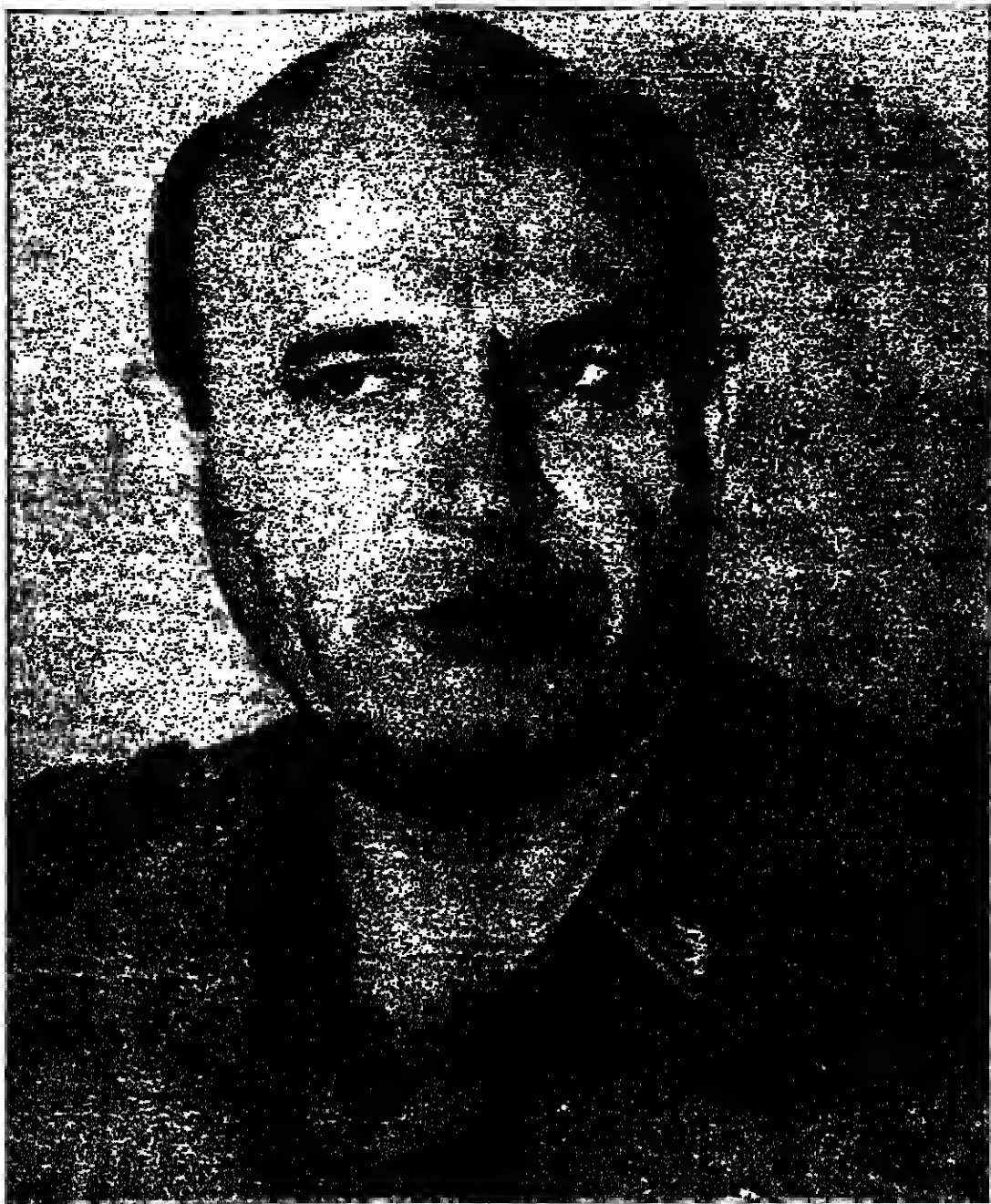
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The most far-reaching proposal is to make the Ground Forces Command a separate arm of the IDF — like the air force and the navy. (IDF Spokesman)

Mofaz to make his mark

The chief of general staff is planning to introduce sweeping changes in the cumbersome, conservative IDF. Can he succeed? Arie O'Sullivan reports

It was so predictable. The senior IDF officer stood up to present a new high-tech weapons program designed to attract top-notch academics into the increasingly modern army. He came well prepared but couldn't work the overhead projector.

In a way, the incident represented one of the IDF's fundamental weak points. Intentions are good and well thought out, but carrying them through can be more difficult than expected.

Next week, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz will present the Defense Ministry with a series of far-reaching changes. Some say Mofaz's ideas are revolutionary and long overdue, others say they may be just cosmetic. But one thing is certain, if the changes are implemented, Mofaz will leave an indelible mark on the Israeli army.

And, coming after the auto-pilot role of his predecessor Lt.-Gen. (res.) Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Mofaz's legacy would be all the more striking.

For now, the general staff is keeping mum about the changes — largely due to procedure.

Before going public with his plans, Mofaz first wants approval from the defense minister and his top advisers David Ivry, who is in charge of overhauling Israel's defense doctrine, and Yisrael Tal.

Once that hurdle is overcome, Mofaz will then present the proposals to the senior commanders of the IDF — and only then to the public.

But there have been leaks. Some senior officers are reportedly calling Mofaz's plan an "earthquake" that will bring about the most significant changes the IDF has undergone in a generation.

IDF approval for the plan came during a three-day workshop held at Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim the last week of 1998. The workshop included 15 of the military's 20 major-generals, there to review conclusions drawn by the 31 committees which had been set up to examine IDF doctrine and its structure toward the next century.

"We dealt with strategy issues of vital importance for the future," Mofaz told military reporters in

Tel Aviv last Friday. "We are talking about very significant changes, whose implementation will influence the quality of the IDF in the 21st century."

Some of the major reforms focus on restructuring the general staff — like having the deputy chief of general staff deal with the daily running of the IDF, freeing the chief of general staff to deal with long-range planning, strategy and war preparedness.

But the most significant change recommended was to make the Ground Forces Command a separate arm of the IDF — like the air force and navy — to be headed by a senior major-general. But while the new structure gives the Ground Forces Command the semblance of a regional command, it will be responsible only for force building and not for operation.

Under the new structure, the Ground Forces Command will become responsible for combat support of the field units, reportedly to take some authority from Technology and Logistics Branch in the areas of acquisition and development. It will also take away significant authority from the manpower branch in the area of personnel. There was also a recommendation to make the Ground Forces fully responsible for training bases, which have been under the regional commands.

"This will increase the effectiveness of the ground forces," Mofaz said.

Other recommended changes include:

- the integration of new weaponry which has entered or will enter the service;
- putting the Medical Corps under the authority of the Technology and Logistics Branch;

• changes in the structure of the reserve call-up system, as well as the location of the army's emergency supply depots.

"We are talking about far-reaching changes which will be integrated in the IDF working plan in the coming years," Mofaz said.

He was adamant that the planned changes would be implemented and that some would already bear fruit in the year 2000.

His confidence is clearly needed to move the titanic IDF. But it remains to be seen whether the nation's largest organization can be significantly shifted.

THERE are basically three types of change in the army: cosmetic, operational and logistical.

"When a new commander moves a table from one side of the room to another to show that he has arrived, then this is a cosmetic change," said Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avraham Rotem, a former head of the army's training department and specialist in IDF force structure. "Spreading out and collecting training camps is a cosmetic change."

But if Mofaz succeeds in turning the Ground Forces Command into an independent arm he will be carrying out an operational change, originally conceived in the late 1970s. The command was set up in a watered-down version in 1983.

"The IDF, despite the fact that it is considered a modern army, was always behind the times and changes always came many years after they should have. When they did come they were only partial and stuttered with the attitude of 'Well, we'll see how it goes,'" said Rotem, today a senior research associate at the BESA Center at Bar-Ilan University.

"These 31 committees were set up because everyone understood that the doctrine and organization were lagging behind the great changes in technology," Rotem says.

In the IDF itself, members of the permanent forces are buzzing about the expected changes and rumors are flying of orders to cut 4,000 off the payroll. Others wonder with trepidation about their position in units that are slated to be combined.

"There is a great power of in-

ertia, and conservativeness in the IDF is extreme. Every change renders someone less important and they stand up and ask why. These people will have to be gotten rid of," Rotem said.

The army is not a business organization which can be judged by a bottom line of profitability, he added.

"In the army you need a war to show that something was wrong," Rotem says. "And in the aftermath of a war there are those who want to try to hide their failures."

But historian Prof. Martin Van Crevelde of the Hebrew University says that there is justification for the IDF's reluctance to change.

"They are responsible for the defense of the country. There is obvious reason for military conservatism," said Van Crevelde, who recently authored *The Sword and the Olive Branch*, a critical review of the IDF. "Everybody is claiming to be overhauling. We live in a world where to be a novelty is chic and everyone is claiming to be modern, but they are really moving along very slowly," he said, adding that the American armed forces are still in essence built to fight the Soviets a decade after the Cold War ended.

"I don't think the IDF is more resistant to change than other armies," Van Crevelde said.

AMIR Oren, military analyst for *Ha'aretz*, wrote recently of the legacies Israeli chiefs of staff have left on the IDF.

"According to a stubborn rumor, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak was the chief of general staff after Ehud Barak and before Mofaz. Even if the rumor proves true, there is no evidence of it," in the IDF, Oren wrote.

But Van Crevelde said that in today's world where the IDF is "crucified by the public and the media," Shahak's ability to avoid attention was in itself a feat.

"If you are a general today you can't do anything right. The Israeli army is a tragic story, and generals are crucified after every blunder," Van Crevelde says.

"Change in the IDF is long overdue. Mofaz seems to be moving in that direction. He saw that Shahak didn't do anything for four years and recognizes the need to try to do the right things."

In his first six months of duty, Mofaz has spent a good portion of his energy dealing with the problems in Lebanon and representing the IDF's steadfast position not to budge from its current deployment there.

"What will take place in the IDF from the end of December until the beginning of May can give Mofaz a gift — a second chance to leave a first impression," Oren wrote.



"Conservativeness in the IDF is extreme...You need a war to show that something was wrong," says Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avraham Rotem. (IDF Spokesman)

PESSAH COUNTRY FAIR* - Calling All Handicrafters

Over the years The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair* has brought artists and craftsmen together with our readers and friends for an enjoyable and profitable day out. This coming Pessah, the fair is going to be much bigger and even better. It will take place on Monday, April 5th, at Kibbutz Tzora near Beit Shemesh, convenient to all, midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The extra large area in which the fair will be held, means that we can accommodate many more exhibitors and have more room for the public to move around.



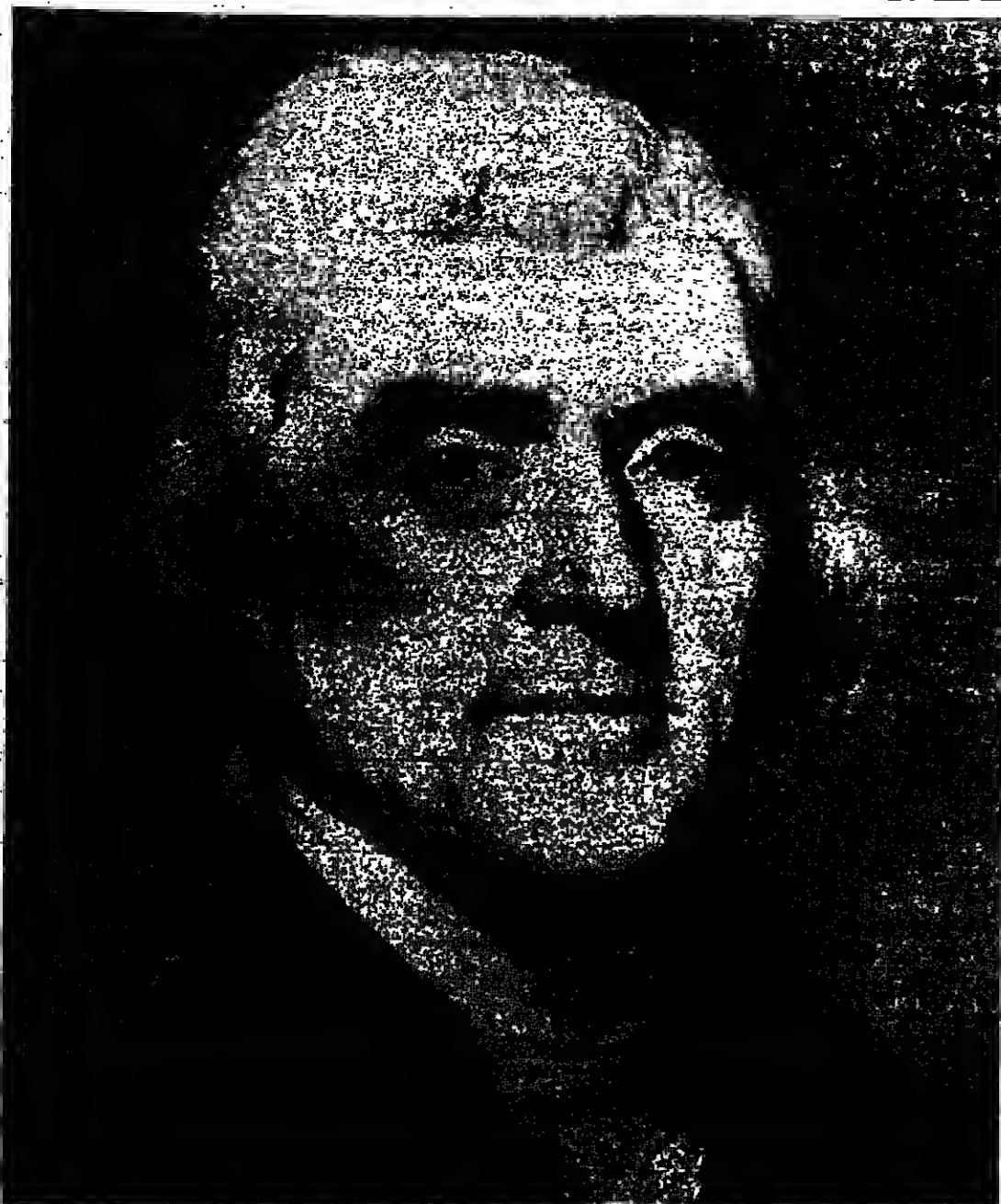
If you create top quality handicrafts or have goods and services that you want to present to an interested public and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Illy or Judy at The Funds, 02-537-6528 - Sunday to Thursday 8am to 3pm. All proceeds from the fair will be used to help Israel's needy children, elderly or new immigrants.

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Whatever century, sex sells

Voyeuristic probing of public figures' intimate lives dates back to the 1790s, when an American newsman named James T. Callender made a career out of journo-trash. Mary Voboril reports



Bill Clinton, who identifies with Thomas Jefferson (above), surely never sought to draw a parallel between their respective sex scandals.

A political writer mocks the president of the US as a shameless philanderer who has a seedy, sleazy affair with a woman 28 years his junior. The same writer reveals that one of the president's political enemies - a would-be Mr. Family Values - is an adulterer in his own right. Then a nationally known lawyer praises the newspaper that broke the story about the president's indiscretions. The praise infuriates the president's allies - who reveal that the lawyer has engaged in a few illicit sexual romps of his own.

It's reader-friendly, turn-of-the-century journo-trash, all right - but the century in question was the 18th and the beginning of the 19th.

The stained presidency was that of Thomas Jefferson, his adulterous adversary was Alexander Hamilton, and the impugned lawyer was John Marshall, then chief justice of the US Supreme Court. Like Jefferson, he was said to be having sex with slaves.

As it turns out, the kind of sex-driven "gotcha" tactics that have humiliated Bill Clinton, Bob Livingston and other high-ranking politicians have been around for centuries. Voyeuristic reporting on the sex lives of public figures dates back to the 1790s, when a proudly partisan newsman named James T. Callender was trying to make a name for himself in Philadelphia and, later, in Richmond, Va.

Born in Scotland, Callender was said to be a slovenly, ill-tempered, alcoholic pamphleteer who fled sedition charges in England after attacking British institutions and describing, in vivid detail, the merits of Scottish independence.

In the US, "Callender discovered an enduring truth, that scandal and private titillation are of compelling interest to many people," Michael Durey, his biographer, wrote in 1990.

In two words, sex sells - and Callender had a nose for the lewd. "All things considered, Callender was probably the most scurrilous writer of this period," says University of Alabama professor William David Sloan, who has written extensively on the history of American journalism.

It was Callender who broke the story that then-president Jefferson had fathered several children by Sally Hemings, one of his 130 slaves. "Callender really hated black people," says New York Law

School professor Annette Gordon-Reed, author of *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*.

"Part of his animus toward Jefferson is that Jefferson was consorting with a black person. This really motivated him."

Jefferson, a widower, never responded to Callender's charges about Hemings. But Jefferson did admit to another scandal spread by Callender: that as a young bachelor he had "offered love" to the wife of one of his longtime friends.

Long before Monica Lewinsky appeared on the nation's radar screen, parallels had been drawn between Jefferson and Clinton. An admirer of the nation's third president, Clinton made a pilgrimage to Monticello in 1993 to commemorate Jefferson's 250th birthday.

One connection Clinton surely never sought to draw, however, was that of their respective sex scandals.

When Callender broke the story in 1802, the nation's newspapers gave prominent play to accounts of Jefferson's sex life. Jefferson's critics wrote mocking poems and parodies, and the overseas press picked up the story.

But so far as the voting public was concerned, "no one cared," Gordon-Reed says. In 1804, "Jefferson was re-elected in a landslide."

Then, as now, voters didn't think a sex scandal merited turning the president out of office, Gordon-Reed says. "Given the other things they liked him for."

Similarly, Clinton, on the threshold of an impeachment trial, enjoys some of the highest public approval ratings of his presidency. Gordon-Reed is among those who consider Callender "despicable" and say he was motivated by venom and racism. He notes that among other racist remarks, Callender referred to Jefferson's "Congo Harem" and derided Hemings as "Dusky Sally," "Black Sal" and "a slut as common as the pavement." He called her children a "mollato litter."

BUT Callender's loathsome reputation, Gordon-Reed says, doesn't negate the general truth of what he wrote about Jefferson.

Even before he took on Jefferson, Callender had made

plenty of enemies through his intemperate prose.

He attacked George Washington as a "hypocrite" who, for his own gain, "authorized the robbery and ruin of his own army."

He called then-president John Adams "a British spy... a hoary-headed incendiary."

Before he broke with Jefferson, Callender wrote that Hamilton, who designed the nation's banking system and wrote most of *The Federalist Papers*, had had an affair with a married woman.

Hamilton had admitted the affair privately in James Monroe and others; they, as gentlemen, made no further mention of it.

But someone leaked the youthful indiscretion to Callender, whose stories argued that the affair was a cover-up for financial shenanigans on Hamilton's part. Hamilton felt forced to respond.

Callender also "outed" members of the Virginia gentry when consorted with black women.

AS his screeds attracted attention, Callender's family life fell into shambles. Shortly after his wife died he abandoned his four children to the care of a Pennsylvania landowner with 13 children of his own.

Callender was also running from a charge of petty theft, having stolen a quantity of mahogany from his lodgings, historians say.

In any case, the newsman wasted little time in trying to find a new wife, writing Jefferson - he had been a frequent correspondent - that he wanted a "heavy Virginia female" who knew how to fatten pigs, cook "and hold her tongue."

Supporters of Adams, however, found a way to punish the Republican pamphleteer. Callender was tried and convicted of sedition, fined \$200 and sentenced to nine months in prison.

Jefferson, elected in 1800, pardoned Callender and others convicted of sedition. By then, Callender had served his term. Jefferson ordered his \$200 fine returned, but payment was delayed; Jefferson eventually paid \$50 of it out of his own pocket.

Chronically broke, Callender asked Jefferson for a patronage job as postmaster of Richmond, a position that paid the then-hand-some sum of \$1,500 a year. Finding Callender unfit, Jefferson declined.

But by then, Callender had beard the gossip about Jefferson and Hemings. He visited Jefferson's neighbors, among whom stories about the Jefferson-Hemings alliance had been circulating for years. Callender's communications began to have overtones of blackmail, leading Jefferson and his friends to sever ties with him.

Callender eventually joined a Federalist newspaper and wrote mild critiques of Jefferson. By this time, Hamilton had his own newspaper, the *New York Post*. Hamilton reprinted some of Callender's stories and suggested the exposes about his own sex life had been inspired, underhandedly, by Jefferson.

Republican newspapers - there was no pretense of nonpartisanship in 1802 - began maligning Callender. One accused him of giving his wife syphilis, leaving her to die on a "loathsome bed," his four kids nearly famished "while Callender was having his usual pint of brandy at breakfast."

Enraged, Callender broke the Hemings story a few days later, reporting as fact that Jefferson "has kept as his concubine, one of his slaves.... By this wench Sally, our President has had several children."

Within a year, Callender was dead at 45. The coroner said the cause was "accidental drowning while drunk." Callender's body was found in three feet of water in the James River in Richmond.

Jefferson went on to enjoy public adulation that continues to this day, though recent DNA tests suggest he may have fathered Hemings' youngest son, Eston, born in 1808 - six years after Callender first made the allegations.

Callender, remembered not for his political writings but for his scandal-mongering, became a historical footnote.

As it happens, there is an ironic footnote to the footnote: One of Callender's grandsons went on to marry a great-grandniece of Thomas Jefferson. (Newsday)

Dry Bones MR. SHULDIG AND HIS DOG DOOBIE



GRAPEVINE BY GREER FAY CASHMAN



Birthday girl Leah Gottlieb gets a silver salver from Olga Leviev.

Amnon Lipkin-Shahak is running in the prime ministerial race, but his wife, Sara, must be happy that Shahak's entry into politics has taken some of the heat off her.

The media has been far from kind to Shahak's journalist wife, Tali, who seems to wield a stronger influence on her husband than Sara does on hers.

The message the media has been putting out is that a vote for Amnon is, in essence, a vote for Tali.

THE Foreign Press Association was well represented last Friday at the induction into the faith of Avishai Shlomo Greenberg, infant son of *New York Times* correspondent Joel Greenberg and his wife, Rima. The sumptuous breakfast celebrating the event was held at the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza, where the baby's parents were married in July 1976.

The location was a natural choice, since the baby's maternal grandparents, Moshe and Charlotte Green, are part owners of the hotel.

But guests were a little cramped in the gift department: For Avishai's mom is the creative force behind Over the Rainbow, a company specializing in gifts for infants and young children. Not a single present came from that particular source.

THE cuisine - Middle Eastern, Far Eastern, Near Eastern and East European - was in tasteful and abundant supply, and the hundreds of guests who came to celebrate the Rumada Tel Aviv's change-of-identity party kept refilling their plates. Refurbished and renamed the Renaissance Tel Aviv, the hotel proved it could hold its own with all the major-league players along the Tel Aviv beach front.

Karl Kilburg, senior vice president of Marriott International, of which Renaissance is a subsidiary, and Ignat Forecki, the hotel's general manager, were pumping flesh all night.

Pushing through the crowd were Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger, Janusz Damon of the Hotel Managers' Association, Dubie Benari, manager of the Kfar Blum Kibbutz Hotel, and Henryk Lewinski of the Israel-Poland Chamber of Commerce, as well as Itzhak (Chuckie) Zaroni, spokesman for Lufthansa, Gideon Thaler, Qantas representative in Israel, and entertainer and songwriter Zvika Pick.

Also there was country-club proprietor David Rosen, cosmetics promoter Bella Diamond, and Harvey Dauglen, Ricco Rosenthal and Roberta Yares, all from the senior management of the Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem.

CELEBRATING his 60th birthday this week was durable entertainer and former athletic champion Arlik Einstein, while National Religious Party leader and former government minister Dr. Josef Burg is getting ready to celebrate his 90th at the end of this month.

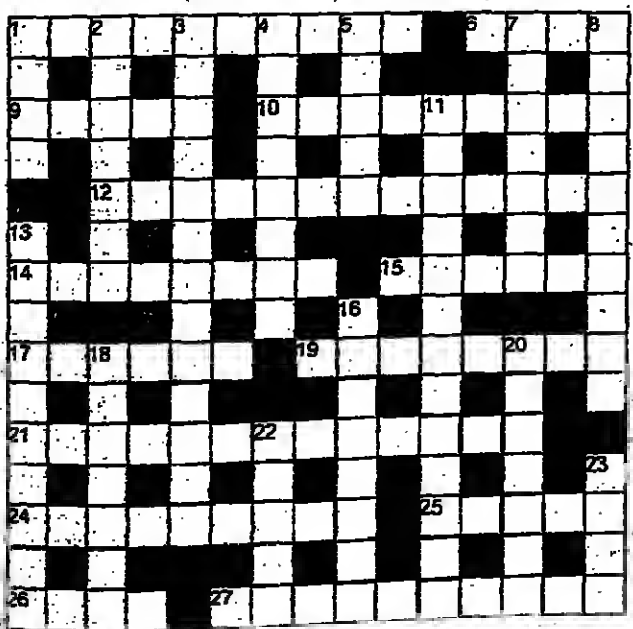
A rabbi and teacher by training and a politician by force of circumstance, the German-born Burg, who got out of Europe and came to this country in 1940, is the personification of modern Jewish history.

Time has not dulled his wit, and past experience suggests that his after-dinner speech will be a memorable treat.

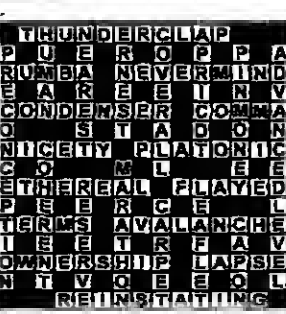
PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu may not be exactly delighted that former chief-of-staff

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 A blooming easy life (3,2,5)
 - 6 Many a member is effeminate (4)
 - 9 Make allusions, anyway (5)
 - 10 What arsonists did to sections of Trieste (3,4,2)
 - 12 Obvious means one used to prove one's innocence (5,4,4)
 - 14 A doctor entered no information on hormone (3)
 - 15 Aim to make a protest (6)
 - 17 Humiliated a retired Anglo-Saxon (6)
 - 19 Ideal breakfast for a jaybird (8)
 - 21 Together, notwithstanding (2,3,4,4)
 - 24 Remain loyal to one's religion (4,5)
 - 25 A couple of males needing capital (5)
 - 26 Anything but a quiet meal (4)
 - 27 Type of car to alarm some on return (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 Poet is utterly excluded (4)
 - 2 Vandalized by footballers caught in the act (7)
 - 3 Think only of others, yet offend others (6,7)
 - 4 He watches old bishop preceding acolyte (8)
 - 5 Consumed some meat, endive and potato (6)
 - 7 To feel fury after greeting is mean (7)
 - 8 Attributes valued by estate agents (10)
 - 11 Single Pole of inferior rank becomes rebel-lion (13)
 - 13 Barney family may be a hazard (6,4)
 - 16 How steam is produced? Rather! (8)
 - 18 A lady of many parts (7)
 - 20 Finding me in drab accommodation is romantic (7)
 - 22 Labour leader leaves a country house in Spain (5)
 - 23 Crack under the strain and speak sharply (4)

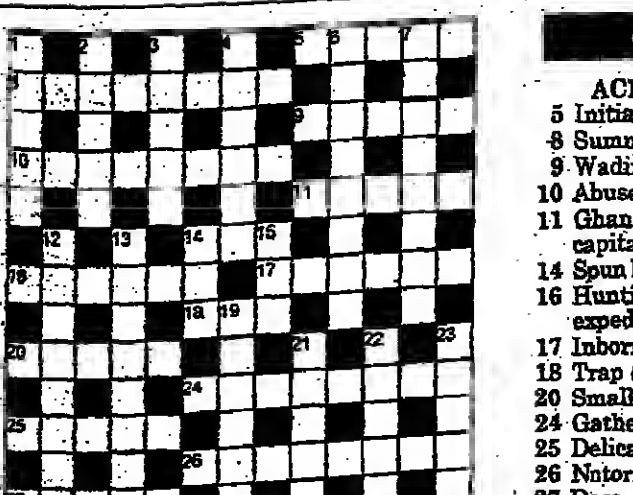


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ACROSS: 1. Korea, 4. Graft, 10. Confine, 11. Drama, 12. Lodge, 13. Aborigine, 15. Noun, 17. Darts, 19. Arcadia, 22. Late, 25. Minister, 27. First, 29. Lumber, 30. Stream, 31. Dandy, 32. Verandah, 33. Owned, 34. Equipment, 35. Rider, 36. Freedom, 37. Scott, 38. Begun, 39. Asked, 41. Best, 45. Oak, 48. Answer, 50. Refuse, 51. Small, 52. Actor, 54. Sheep, 55. Dried, 56. Rhyme.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 5 Initial (5)
 - 8 Summation (8)
 - 9 Wading bird (5)
 - 10 Abuse (8)
 - 11 Ghanaian capital (5)
 - 14 Spun by spider (3)
 - 16 Hunting expedition (6)
 - 17 Inborn (6)
 - 18 Trap (3)
 - 20 Small fish (5)
 - 24 Gather (8)
 - 25 Delicate (5)
 - 26 Notorious (8)
 - 27 Decorate (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Ruth's mother-in-law (5)
 - 2 Grown-up (5)
 - 3 Stern (5)
 - 4 Rummage for food (6)
 - 6 Blameless (8)
 - 7 Distinct (8)
 - 12 Coddled (8)
 - 13 Offhand (8)
 - 14 Hairpiece (8)
 - 15 Refuse-container (3)
 - 19 Deranged (6)
 - 21 Postpone (5)
 - 23 Loathe (5)
 - 23 Belief in God (5)

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Jerusalem Area

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City	Today	High	Low	High	Low
Jerusalem	14/5	14/5	4/3	14/5	4/3
Tel Aviv	16/10	16/10	6/4	16/10	6/4
Haifa	16/10	16/10	6/4	16/10	6/4
Beersheva	14/5	14/5	4/3	14/5	4/3
Netanya	16/10	16/10	6/4	16/10	6/4
Ariel	14/4	14/4	4/3	14/4	4/3
Beer Sheva	14/5	14/5	4/3	14/5	4/3
Dead Sea	20/9	20/9	10/5	20/9	10/5

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	High	Low
London	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
New York	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Los Angeles	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Paris	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Tokyo	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Sydney	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Moscow	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Beijing	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Manila	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Seoul	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Bangkok	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Calcutta	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Delhi	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Chennai	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Madras	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Bombay	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Colombo	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Perth	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Singapore	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Jakarta	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Manila	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Seoul	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Bangkok	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Calcutta	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Delhi	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Chennai	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Madras	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Bombay	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Colombo	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Perth	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Singapore	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3
Jakarta	10/15	10/15	5/3	10/15	5/3

MOON PHASES

Phase	Start	End
New Moon	Jan 17	Jan 24
First Quarter	Jan 24	Jan 31
Full Moon	Jan 31	Feb 7
Last Quarter	Feb 7	Feb 14

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

City	Today	High	Low
Los Angeles	22/10	22/10	10/5
San Francisco	18/8	18/8	8/3
Seattle	8/4	8/4	4/3
Vancouver	7/4	7/4	4/3
Calgary	12/17	12/17	7/3
Edmonton	12/17	12/17	7/3
Winnipeg	23/33	23/33	13/3
Montreal	10/11	10/11	1/3
Quebec	10/11	10/11	1/3
Ottawa	10/11	10/11	1/3
Halifax	24/31	24/31	14/3
St. John's	24/31	24/31	14/3
London	10/15	10/15	5/3
Paris	10/15	10/15	5/3
Rome	10/15	10/15	5/3
Moscow	10/15	10/15	5/3
Beijing	10/15	10/15	5/3
Manila	10/15	10/15	5/3
Seoul	10/15	10/15	5/3
Bangkok	10/15	10/15	5/3
Calcutta	10/15	10/15	5/3
Delhi	10/15	10/15	5/3
Chennai	10/15	10/15	5/3
Madras	10/15	10/15	5/3
Bombay	10/15	10/15	5/3
Colombo	10/15	10/15	5/3
Perth	10/15	10/15	5/3
Singapore	10/15	10/15	5/3
Jakarta	10/15	10/15	5/3

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

City	Today	High	Low
London	10/15	10/15	5/3
Paris	10/15	10/15	5/3
Rome	10/15	10/15	5/3
Moscow	10/15	10/15	5/3
Beijing	10/15	10/15	5/3
Manila	10/15	10/15	5/3
Seoul	10/15	10/15	5/3
Bangkok	10/15	10/15	5/3
Calcutta	10/15	10/15	5/3
Delhi	10/15	10/15	5/3
Chennai	10/15	10/15	5/3
Madras	10/15	10/15	5/3
Bombay	10/15	10/15	5/3
Colombo	10/15	10/15	5/3
Perth	10/15	10/15	5/3
Singapore	10/15	10/15	5/3
Jakarta	10/15	10/15	5/3

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One way would be to issue each child with a coupon to go to a specific shoe store. Another way would be to measure the children's feet (don't forget it's 480 children) and make sure that the correct size shoe will go to the correct caravan. Another idea is to take 1,000 pairs of various shoes and spend two to four days minimum on the job.

When we decide which is the least problematic way, we will make sure that our special appeal is carried out. In the meantime, please rush your checks or phone us with Visa donation for the Winter-Shoes Mitzva to The Jerusalem Post Funds. P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (02) 537-6528. (Mile Feldman and Judy Aminoff).

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NIS 35 For some wonderful children - Anon., Jem.

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\$18 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Katz, Boca Raton, FL. In honor of the bar mitzva of Zvi Benning - Cousin Bryn, Tel Aviv.

FFY1000 to the children of Eretz Yisrael, with love - Mr. Braun, France.

Aust\$50 in honor of our two beautiful grandchildren, Niss and Hallel Bards - Sabat and Savita, Melbourne.

New Progress NIS 1,325 \$ 66 (other currencies converted to shekels)

WELCOME HOME FUND
NIS 180 Thank you to Rabbi Fudman for all his help and support - Mrs. and Dr. Haimson, Ashkelon.

NIS 50 Anon.

NIS 36 Harvey and Phyllis Narol, Beersheba.

\$20 R. Asper, Winnipeg.

Aust\$50 in honor of our dear children, Ilana and Mark, Naomi and Ari - Abba and Ima, Melbourne.

New Progress NIS 1,459 \$ 66 (other currencies converted to shekels)

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SAAB 9000, 1994, automatic, excellent condition, full extras, metallic, dark, very luxurious car. \$9,300. Call Mark any time. Tel. 03-527-0821, 050-717-981. [794-159]

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VW GOLF GTI, 1991, auto, excellent condition, 4 doors, 5 seats, full extras, new silver, \$3,500. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, 050-717-981. [794-159]

1996 TOYOTA COROLLA GLI, excellent condition, light blue metallic, power steering, fully loaded, with extras, first owner, passport to passport preferred. Priced to sell. Tel. 03-986-0565. [796-461]

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DAEWOO ESPERO, 1995, automatic, \$5,500. All extras included. Car in very good condition, 5 seats. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, Tel. 050-717-981. [794-178]

DAEWOO PRINCE AUTOMATIC 20 cc, \$5,500, luxury large car, leather seats, fitted with all extras, green metallic, fitted with all extras. \$19,900. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, Tel. 050-717-981. [794-178]

GRAND CHEROKEE 1998, V6, automatic, \$29,900. Fitted with all extras. As new. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, Tel. 050-717-981. [794-178]

GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED, 1994-1995, V8, 4.2 cc, red, automatic, \$18,900. Fitted with all extras. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, Tel. 050-717-981. [794-178]

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MITSUBISHI GLX L300, 1994, 6 passengers, automatic, front and rear AC. Fully loaded, full alarm system, metallic blue silver, 91,000 km, 12 months test. Tel. 02-983-1590 (NS), 050-316-715 (NS). [210-61]

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FORD PROBE 1981, 2 door, 5 seats automatic, very luxurious, AC, full extras, cruise control, white, low km., excellent car. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, 050-717-981. [794-159]

HONDA ACCORD 1988, manual, excellent condition, full extras, \$3,900. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, 050-717-981. [794-159]

MERCEDES 240, DIESEL, 1978, manual, full extras, \$4,900. Call Mark, Tel. 03-527-0821, 050-717-981. [794-

Delay of game

By JOE HOFFMAN

"Ladies and gentlemen, we're sorry for the inconvenience, but the Jets will be delayed."

No, it's not Ben-Gurion Airport. This heartfelt apology comes from Middle East Television, and it refers to the kind of Jets who fly 100 yards back and forth in the Meadowlands. Those Jets.

The New York Jets host the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday in an NFL playoff game, but METV regrets to inform its millions of Jets fans that the game cannot be broadcast live.

The time slot, explains commentator Shahrar Ben-Halevy, belongs to "Football Plus" which has contracted to present live coverage of an English Premier League match followed by an Italian Serie A contest.

"This Sunday is particularly

important," he sighs, with Eyal Berkovic's West Ham up against Manchester United, followed by third-place Lazio's assault on league-leaders Fiorentina.

To compensate for the lack of live coverage, the millions can watch the game on Monday at 18:00.

Other NFL offerings this week on METV:

TOMORROW

19:30 - San Francisco at Atlanta (live)

SUNDAY

02:00 - Miami at Denver (recorded)

23:35 - Arizona at Minnesota (20-minute tape delay pending end of Lazio-Fiorentina).

I suspect, on Monday, we'll see the green-and-white zillions walking around Israel, saying, "Don't tell me the score, I'm gonna watch the game tonight."

'Mid-winter' break heralds Toto Cup action

By OFI LEVIT

The first of a three-week National League "mid-winter" soccer break is upon us this weekend.

While pitches in Europe are either frozen solid or covered in snow, one can only assume that the reason the IFA decided to take a rest was to give players a chance to recuperate for the "gruelling" second-half of the league (15-matches). Surely the IFA didn't do so than the Meteorological Service by wrongly forecasting blizzards for January 1999?

No matter, however, fans of local soccer will still be able to follow their teams in the fourth round of the Toto Cup although the fare looks pretty innocuous with no major clashes lined up.

In group A, leaders Betar

Jerusalem travel to bottom-place Hapoel Beit She'an while there is a Petah Tikva derby between second-placed Maccabi and Hapoel who are third.

Group B leaders Maccabi Tel Aviv visit bottom side from Rishon and third-placed Bnei Yehuda host Hapoel Tel Aviv (2), both matches will be played today.

Group C fixtures: 2-Maccabi Jaffa v. 1-Hapoel Haifa and 4-Hapoel Jerusalem v. 3-Hapoel Kfar Sava. Group D fixtures: 1-Zafririm Holon v. 3-Maccabi Haifa and 4-Ironi Ashdod v. 2-Maccabi Herzliya (today).

The Second Division's 15th round schedule continues as usual this weekend. The main fixture is Hapoel Ashkelon v. Hapoel Beersheba.

DePaul freshmen bashed by Bearcats

NCAA BASKETBALL

CINCINNATI (AP) - Cincinnati didn't cut the youngest team in Conference USA any slack.

Melvin Levett hit seven of his first eight shots and scored 27 points Wednesday night to lead No. 3 Cincinnati, the defending league champions, to an 87-64 victory over DePaul and its highly touted freshman class.

The Bearcats (14-0, 3-0) remained one of three unbeaten Division I teams by beating the Blue Demons (7-6, 1-2) for the 16th straight time in a span of seven years.

The 14 straight wins to open the season are second only to the 1962-63 team's 19-0 start in a season that ended in the Final Four.

Levett scored 21 of Cincinnati's 49 in the first half, when the Cats opened an 18-point lead. Levett was 10-of-17 from the field and made half of his 12 3-point attempts.

No. 1 Connecticut 91, Boston College 78. Richard Hamilton scored a career-high 30 points as the visiting Huskies (12-0, 4-0 Big East) beat the Eagles for the 20th straight time since 1988.

Connecticut led 49-39 at halftime and then went on a 14-4 run. Michael Cotton had a career-high 23 points for Boston College (3-9, 0-4), which has lost seven of eight.

No. 2 Duke 99, Georgia Tech 58. The Blue Devils (14-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) won their 30th straight home game as Elton Brand had 18 points and Trajan Langdon and Corey Maggette added 17 each.

Jason Collier had a career-high 25 points for the Yellow Jackets (10-5, 1-2), which trailed 53-29 at halftime.

No. 9 Purdue 70, Penn St. 67. Jaquan Cornell had 23 points and the visiting Boilermakers (13-2, 1-0 Big Ten) held off a late rally by the Nittany Lions (9-4, 1-2). Gyasi Cline-Heard had a career-high 23 points for Penn State, which closed a 13-point deficit to 64-62 with 1:18 left, only to see Cornell and Tony Mayfield go 6-for-6 at the foul line.

Miami 84, No. 10 St. John's 79. Tim James had 22 points as the Hurricanes (9-2, 3-0 Big East) won their seventh straight game and beat a ranked team at home for the fifth consecutive season. Ron Artest and Bootsy Thornton each had 17 points for the Red Storm (12-3, 3-1), who had a nine-game winning streak snapped and were 16-of-30 at the free throw line.

College Basketball Top 25

How the top 25 teams in the AP's poll fared Wednesday:

1. Connecticut (12-0) beat Boston College 91-78.

2. Duke (14-1) beat Georgia Tech 99-58.

3. Cincinnati (14-0) beat DePaul 87-64.

4. Stanford (12-3) did not play.

5. Maryland (13-2) did not play.

6. Kentucky (13-3) did not play. Next at Vanderbilt Saturday.

7. UCLA (10-2) did not play.

8. Arizona (8-1) did not play.

9. Purdue (15-2) beat Penn State 70-67.

10. St. John's (12-3) lost to Miami 84-79.

11. North Carolina (14-3) beat Florida State 72-64.

12. Michigan State (11-4) lost to No. 24 Wisconsin 66-61.

13. Indiana (14-4) did not play.

14. Auburn (14-0) beat No. 19 Arkansas 65-60.

15. New Mexico (12-2) lost to Northwestern 52-55.

16. Minnesota (19-2) lost to Northwestern 52-55.

17. Iowa (11-1) did not play.

18. Kansas (10-3) beat Georgia 60-52.

19. Arkansas (11-3) lost to No. 14 Auburn 65-60.

20. Syracuse (11-3) did not play.

21. Clemson (13-3) did not play.

22. Texas Christian (12-2) did not play.

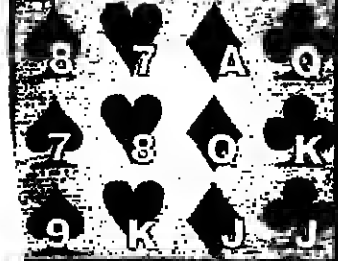
23. Oklahoma State (10-3) beat Texas 61-54.

24. Wisconsin (13-3) beat No. 12 Michigan State 66-61.

25. California (10-2) did not play.

WINNING CARDS

in yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily chance drawing



Radhe Shyan Sharma, groundsman at Delhi's Ferozeshah Kotla stadium assesses the damage to the vandalized Test pitch yesterday. (Reuters)

Hindu activists dig up India-Pakistan Test pitch

NEW DELHI (Reuters) -

Activists of India's right-wing Hindu party Shiv Sena broke into New Delhi's Ferozeshah cricket stadium late on Wednesday and damaged the pitch ahead of a Test match between India and Pakistan.

The match, the first between the two arch-foes in almost a decade on the Indian soil, is scheduled to be held from January 28.

Press Trust of India quoted officials of the Delhi Cricket Association as saying that the match would not be cancelled.

The activists were protesting against the Delhi cricket board's decision to hold the match despite warnings by the Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray.

The incident followed recent attacks on cinema halls by Shiv Sena activists enraged by a film, "Fire," which depicts an intimate relationship between two women who find solace in each other's company after being neglected by their husbands.

Police reached the spot later and arrested four activists.

They were charged with criminal trespass and criminal intimidation, PTI quoted police as saying.

In the past, Shiv Sena has opposed visits by Pakistani artists and sportsmen to India and has campaigned for strict control of theatre, music and other forms of culture.

Later yesterday, the Pakistani cricket authorities said they would be sending a representative to India to assess the threat to their tour.

"We have always said the security of the Pakistan team was of the highest concern," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Khaliq Mahmood said by telephone from Lahore.

"We are sending a delegate to India, who along with the Pakistan High Commission, will assess the extent and nature of the threat." He said Pakistan still planned to go ahead with the tour.

India and Pakistan share a passion for cricket that goes back to their days under colonial rule, but have fought three wars since the end of British rule in 1947.

"No one can stop the Test match from being played at the Kotla ground and it will be held as per schedule," District Cricket Association President Rambabu Gupta said.

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SPORTS

in brief

Mac. Haifa sign Poland captain

Maccabi Haifa completed the signing of 28-year-old Polish mid-fielder Jerzy Brzezczek on Wednesday.

Brzezczek, who has 32 caps and two international goals to his name, and is currently Poland's skipper, was signed from Austrian side Lask Linz for an undisclosed sum of between \$600,000 and \$1 million.

This signing should be a major boost to the Haifa team ahead of their European and league campaigns as Brzezczek is also eligible to play in the Cup Winners Cup.

Brzezczek played here with his national team early last year when his new teammate, Alon Harazi, scored the winning goal to give Israel a 2-0 victory over the Poles.

Brzezczek will arrive late tomorrow night together with 29-year-old fellow-countryman Dariusz Giesior who will be arriving for trials from Polish side Widzew Lodz.

Offer Roman-Abels

Chelsea's Flo out for six weeks

LONDON (AP) - Chelsea's titles hopes were rocked yesterday with news that key striker Tore Andre Flo could miss six weeks with an injury.

Flo returned to Norway for surgery on his right ankle after picking up the injury last weekend in Chelsea's 2-0 win over Oldham in the FA Cup.

Flo will miss at least four Premier League games and the next two rounds of the FA Cup. However, second-place Chelsea are expected to have him back for the European Cup Winners Cup quarterfinals in March.

Fowler snubs Liverpool

LIVERPOOL (AP) - Liverpool's offer of £33,000 a week to striker Robbie Fowler may not be enough to keep him at Anfield.

The England forward is reported to have turned down the offer, which amounts to about £9 million over 5 1/2 years. That's an estimated 70-percent increase over his present salary.

Fowler's contract still has 18 months to run with reports Liverpool may now try to sell him for an estimated £10 million.

Fowler could be going the way of teammate Steve McManaman, who has been linked with moves next season to Real Madrid, Barcelona and clubs in Italy and England.

Ginola named English player of the month

LONDON (Reuters) - Tottenham Hotspur winger David Ginola was named December's English premier-league player of the month yesterday for the second time in his career.

"David Ginola's recent performances have played a major role in Tottenham's revival under George Graham," said the awards panel.

"During December he once again demonstrated his talent and flair, but this award also recognises the commitment he has shown to the Spurs cause."

The former French international has been fouled more times than any other player in the league this season - 52.

Cameroon PM appeals FIFA suspension

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP) - Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge has appealed to FIFA to lift the indefinite suspension it imposed on the West African nation's soccer federation earlier this week.

In a Wednesday letter addressed to FIFA president Sepp Blatter, Musonge said his government was prepared to accept the world body's plans for the federation.

FIFA suspended the Cameroonian federation (FCF) after the West African country's sports minister sent a fax last week with reservations about previously agreed-to plans to overhaul the FCF's executive committee.

Cameroon, a World Cup quarterfinalist in 1990, also qualified for the finals in 1994 and 1998, but was eliminated in the first round both times.

Orioles owner may lead delegation to Cuba

BALTIMORE (AP) - The owner of the Baltimore Orioles may lead a delegation to Cuba in the next two weeks to prepare for an exhibition game between his US Major League Baseball club and a Cuban side.

The Baltimore Sun reported yesterday. President Bill Clinton announced a proposal Tuesday which would let more Americans send money to Cubans, offer direct mail service between the two countries, expand direct charter flights and possibly let the Orioles play a Cuban team.

Orioles owner Peter Angelos said the team received approval from the US government for a spring game against the Cuban national team.

The Orioles hope to play in Cuba and then host the Cuban team later at Camden Yards.

Caesarea golf

The 52 winners of the 1998 Friday competitions gathered on New Year's Day at Caesarea for the annual Champion of Champions tournament.

Cyril Kaufman won the A division with a total of 74 strokes with Devora Schur the B champ on 71 and Malka Geri the leader of the C division with 74.

Kaufman also won the monthly medal competition with his 75 in division A. Mendi Kliger won the B division with 70 strokes and O 74 gave Yakov Deutch the first place in Division C.

In the K-C two-best-ball stableford competition the team of Mike Manner, Mati Geri, Zvi Schachar and Ido Katzenelenbogen triumphed with 91 points. On 90 were Shlomo and Eliran Avnaim, Meir Assayag and Gabriel Fish. Eleven pairs and three triads gave eight handicaps Jeff Strubel the best individual score of a 74 gross - 66 net.

Heather Chait

Inside

Delhi Test pitch
vandalized
Page 23Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisHingis
steers Swiss
to Hopman
Cup win

PERTH (Reuters) - Martina Hingis kept Switzerland in contention in the Hopman Cup yesterday when she beat Lindsay Davenport who dethroned her as world No. 1 last year.

Hingis's mixed doubles win with Ivo Heuberger helped Switzerland to a 2-1 win over the US pairing of Davenport and Jan-Michael Gambill.

Hingis, whose New Year's resolution was to regain the No. 1 spot, gave the Swiss the lead with a 6-3 5-7 6-2 win over Davenport in the opening singles.

Gambill, one of the rising stars of American tennis, beat Heuberger 6-4 6-4 and then Hingis and Heuberger settled the match with a workmanlike 6-3 6-3 win over Gambill and Davenport.

Despite losing to Slovakia on Tuesday, Switzerland will be guaranteed a berth in tomorrow's final if they beat Sweden 3-0 today.

The defeat left the second-seeded Americans out of contention for a place in the final.

Hingis's win was her eighth in 14 meetings with Davenport and her ninth in as many singles matches in the mixed teams' championship. At the ATP tournament in Doha, former French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who is trying to resurrect his career with a new coach, suffered a major setback in his first event of the season yesterday.

The Russian third seed was beaten 3-6 6-1 7-6 (12-10) by Moroccan Hicham Arazi after failing to convert four match points in the tie-break of their second round match in the Qatar Open.

Lapsing into uncertainty when it mattered most, Kafelnikov's rhythmic ground strokes could not carry him through. But the point he will most regret was his double fault on his second match point.

It was a disappointing result in one of his first matches under Larry Stefanki, the American whose past pupils include John McEnroe and Marcelo Rios and who must find a way to motivate the Russian.

In the quarter-finals Arazi will play Karim Alami, his compatriot, best friend, doubles and practice partner for the right to a possible semifinal against top-seeded Briton Tim Henman, who faces American Jeff Tarango in the last eight.

The other quarter-finals pit Croatian Goran Ivanisevic against German qualifier Rainer Schuettler and Frenchman Cedric Pioline against Argentine Mariano Zabaleta.



Radio station employee Marty Anderson gives a jubilant double thumbs-up to passing honking traffic in Portland, Oregon on Wednesday after hearing that the NBA lockout had ended.

NBA to play 50-game season
starting on February 5

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The National Basketball Association season will finally get underway on February 5 for a 50-game schedule, the league said yesterday after its Board of Governors unanimously ratified a labour deal with the players.

The 29 team owners approved the 11th-hour deal hammered out in overnight talks between Commissioner David Stern and players' union chief Billy Hunter that was overwhelmingly approved Wednesday afternoon by the players.

"The basketball season is going to be upon us soon and I'm elated," said Stern.

"We're glad this is over," said Hunter. "Our players are anxious to get back to play."

The six-year deal ended a lockout of players imposed on July 1 by owners, dissatisfied with pay structure rules and the expanding share of the \$2 billion in annual NBA revenues that was going to the players.

By the time the agreement was struck, one day before the owners were expected to cancel the entire season, 437 games had already been scrubbed.

Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik said the shortened schedule, reduced from the usual 82-game campaign, would allow for normal

postseason playoffs that would end by June 29 or June 30.

Granik said players would not be able to report for formal training camps until the agreement was written and signed, which he said should be accomplished by January 18.

In the meantime, Granik said all players, including 200-plus free agents, would be invited to report to any NBA team's training facility starting on Monday to begin workouts.

Both Stern and Hunter diplomatically called the resolution a win-win situation for the owners and players, but both conceded that winning back alienated fans was now a top priority.

"We have some winning back of fans to do and we're going to do it," said Stern.

Stern said teams would hold open scrimmages to welcome back fans and that clubs would play two exhibition games prior to starting the season which would be free to fans.

He also said \$10 tickets would be made available in limited quantities at regular season games to encourage families to attend.

Said Hunter: "The players are eager to do everything they can to bring the fans back. The only regret I have is that it took us as long to get to where we are as it did."

Fans cheer, sneer, shrug at settlement

NEW YORK (Reuters) - As word spread of a likely agreement between NBA players and owners on Wednesday, reactions from fans and others ranged from joy to apathy to resentment.

"I'm so glad," said Bill Dziawagros from a watering hole near Chicago's United Centre, where the Bulls play.

"It is going to be a very pleasant spring for us," he said, referring to the prospect of the reinstated season, under a shorter schedule. Dziawagros said that while other events have brought people to the arena, the delayed season had cut down on his clientele.

Business, or the loss of it, was a concern of many who lamented that nearly half the National Basketball Association's regular season had been missed.

"It's a good thing for the business people that were losing their shirts," said Joe St. John of New York City.

"It's good for the fans, good for the business people and good for the city of New York," home

to the Knicks. He added: "My 13-year-old son will be happy. But I didn't miss it." And as far as the owners and the players and their dispute over salary and other issues, St. John said: "I couldn't care less. That's billionaires vs. millionaires."

Mike Hull, 46, a Miami glazier, agreed, saying he had no feelings one way or the other about the dispute itself.

"I'm glad to hear it, because it's been a dreary sports season with only hockey," Hull said. "I like to watch the (Miami) Heat. I'm glad they'll be on again, but I'm not a big fan."

Miami banker Orlando Collazo, 38, echoed such ambivalence, saying: "I'll watch the games, but I didn't miss it. We had the Dolphins to watch, then FSU (Florida State University), then Christmas and the holidays."

But substitutes didn't pass muster with all the fans, including Toffy Vega, a Philadelphia convenience store clerk who was elated by the news that the NBA lockout was ending.

Vega said he had just about given up on trying to

squeeze the same thrills out of college basketball. "I'm glad they're through with that crap. Now we can see some basketball again. Basketball's an art form, man, but college basketball just didn't cut it," he said.

In Boston, however, where the Celtics rank somewhere between the pope and the baked bean on the reverence scale, some fans were angry.

"I wished they cancelled the whole season," said Danny Murphy, 39, of Woburn, a self-described devout Celtics fan.

"A pox on both their houses," he said of the players and owners. "They're just going to jack up the ticket prices and we're going to have to pay."

"I am a diehard fan, but this year I'm not going to even watch them on TV," Murphy said. "I have no sympathy for millionaires fighting over the dollars in my pocket." Collazo in Miami concurred.

"They probably don't deserve to play this year. You could probably replace all those players with new players and the fans would grow to like the new ones."

Maccabi edged
79-76 by
Tau Vitoria

Tel Aviv falls to 5th in Group F

By BRIAN FREEMAN

The revamped Maccabi Tel Aviv looked very much like the same uninspired club of old last night as it lost 79-76 to Tau Vitoria in the opener of the second stage of the EuroLeague in Spain.

Neither the new year nor the new players could change Maccabi's direction, as the club fell to 4-7 in the EuroLeague, two games behind Vitoria at 6-5.

To make matters worse, Varese defeated Pilsen 67-57 last night to improve its record to 3-6 and leap over Maccabi for the fourth and last Final-16 spot from Group F.

Maccabi's all-time record in Spain during the European championship dropped to 5-24 with the loss, but the Israelis can take little solace from this since Vitoria did not exactly remind anyone of the powerhouse teams like Real Madrid and Barcelona of years past.

Maccabi actually started the contest as if it intended to turn a new page on what has so far been a disappointing season, using good team play on offense to create easy shots.

Newcomer David Benoit drilled two three-pointers in the first five minutes, as many three pointers as the recently departed Nikola Loncar had in his entire stay with Tel Aviv, and Victor Alexander hit his first five shots to lead Maccabi to a 35-31 advantage with just under four minutes remaining in the half.

The Israeli bench also provided key sparks in the first period, as Derrick Sharp and Constantin Popa contributed a combined nine points.

But the defense was not able to keep the balanced Spanish club at bay, especially from three-point range, and Tau held a 40-38 advantage at the halftime buzzer.

The second period opened ominously for the Israelis, as seconds into the half Benoit fell to the floor with an injury.

Doron Sheffer, who has just returned from an injury himself, came in to take Benoit's place, but Vitoria went on a 9-0 run to build up a 49-42 lead.

Although Benoit did return, he did not score any field goals in the second half and Maccabi spent the

rest of the half playing catch-up. Tel Aviv did actually retake the lead midway through the period for a few seconds, when Sharp drilled his second three-pointer of the night, but Vitoria quickly responded with a barrage of three-pointers of their own to retake control of the game.

Maccabi's offense, meanwhile, which looked organized in the first half, was the exact opposite in the second period, and Tel Aviv wasted several opportunities to win the game.

For Maccabi, Victor Alexander had 19, Oded Katash 17 (most of those in the final minutes when Maccabi was desperately playing catch-up), David Benoit and Nadav Henefeld 10, Constantin Popa 7, Derrick Sharp 6, newcomer Zdravko Radulovic a disappointing 5 and Doron Sheffer 2. Vitoria's leading scorers almost exactly paralleled their EuroLeague averages coming into the contest: Miroslav Beric had 18 (16.2 average coming into the game), Elmer Bennett 13 (12.5 average), Juan Alberto Espilo 13 (12.2 average), Lucio Angulo 12 (10.9 average) and Stefano Rusconi 11 (10.5 average).

In the other Group F game, Panathinaikos maintained its perfect record with a 76-73 victory of Saragosa.

Next week Maccabi has, at least on paper, an easier opponent, as Saragosa visits Yad Eliahu.

EuroLeague Group F				
	P	W	L	Pts.
Panathinaikos	11	11	0	22
Els Pilsen	11	7	4	18
Tau Vitoria	11	6	5	17
Varese	11	5	6	18
Maccabi TA	11	4	7	15
Saragosa	11	2	9	13

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22,23	Yolande Smith	Britain	Blind Faith
25,26,27	Urs Dietrich	Germany	An der Grenze des Tages
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